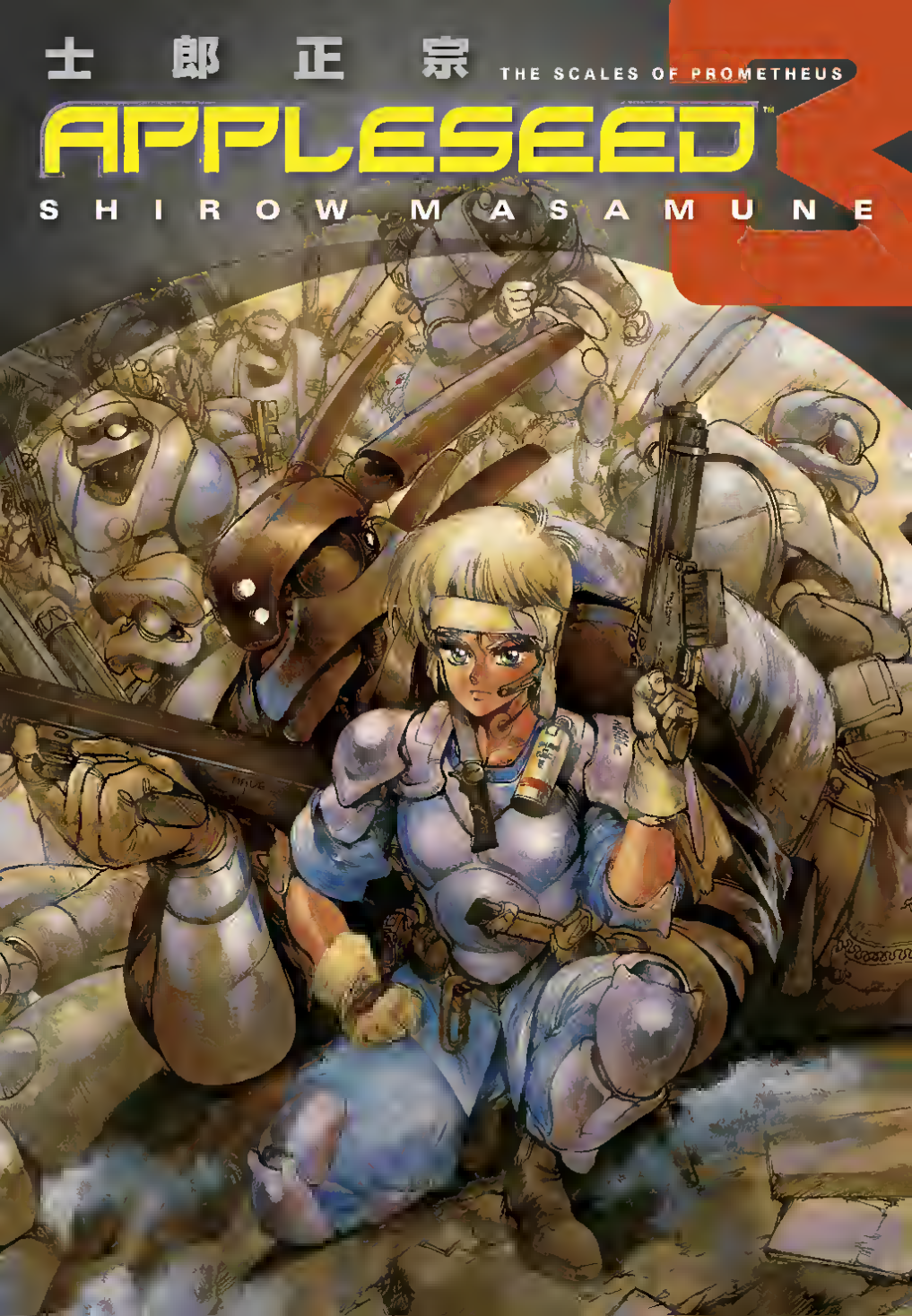
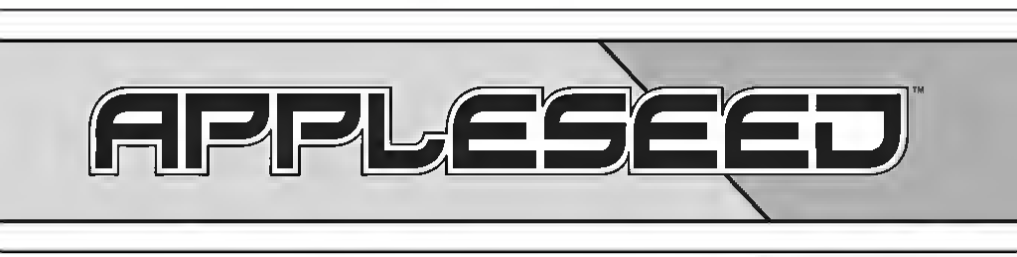
士郎正宗

THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS

APPLESEED™

SHIROW MASAMUNE

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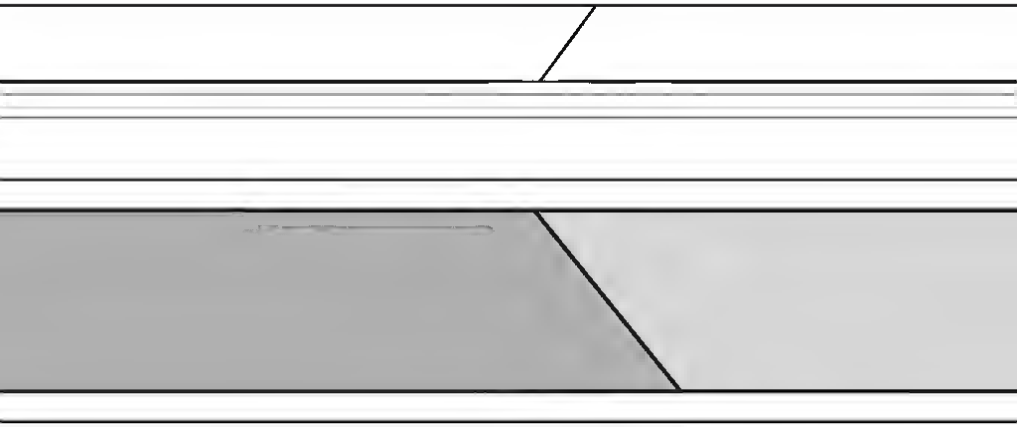

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APPLESEED™ BOOK THREE THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS
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士郎正宗 THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS APPLESEED™

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[with DUANE JOHNSON]

lettering by TOM ORZECHOWSKI

006 [15] POINT MAN

054 [16] LIFE POINT

093 [17] LIVE DRIVE

106 [18] DEAD OR ALIVE

199 [19] DEAD POINT

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士郎正宗

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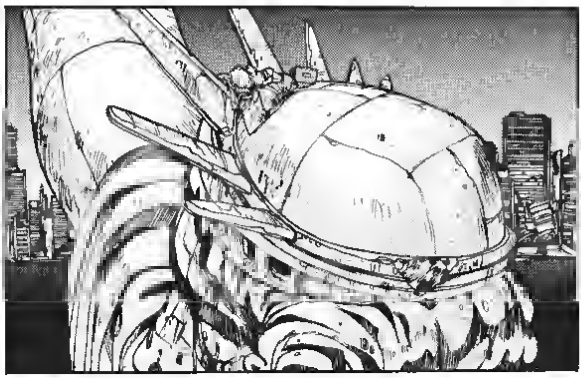
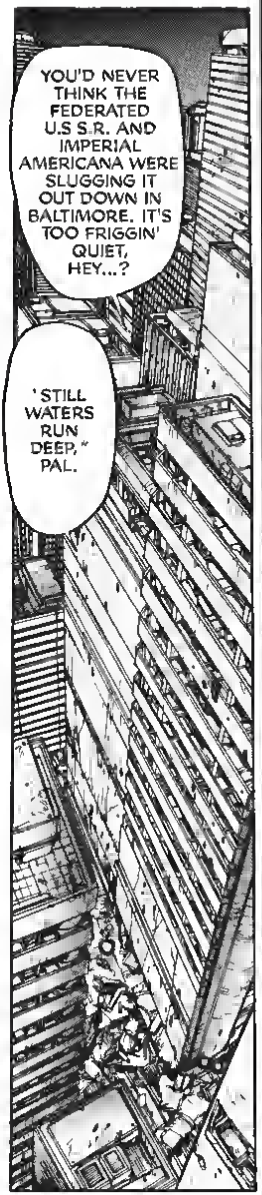
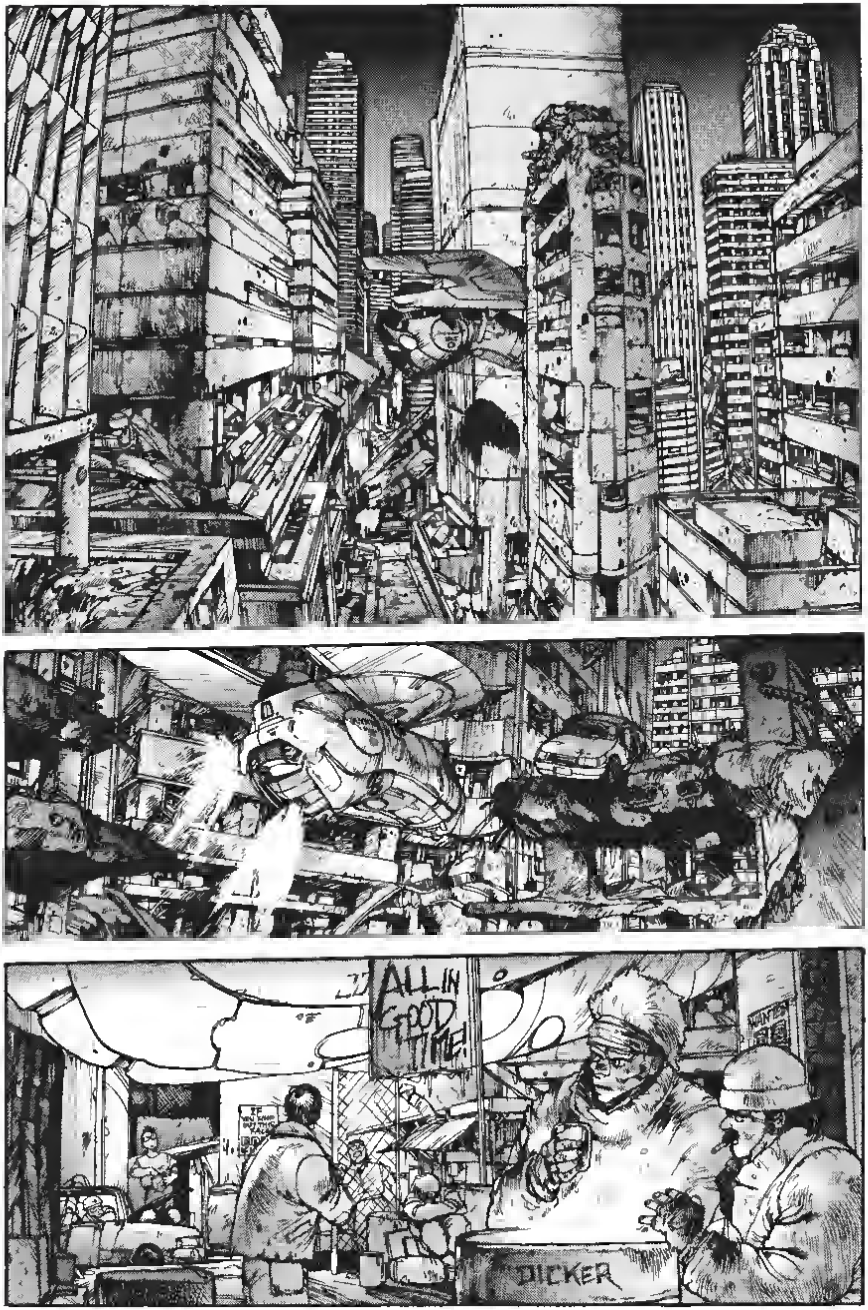



YOU'D NEVER THINK THE FEDERATED U.S.S.R. AND IMPERIAL AMERICANA WERE SLUGGING IT OUT DOWN IN BALTIMORE. IT'S TOO FRIGGIN' QUIET, HEY...?
'STILL WATERS RUN DEEP," PAL.

SO THIS IS THE BIG APPLE...


ALL IN GOOD TIME!
DICKER

YOU THINK YOU'RE HOT SHOT JUST BECAUSE YOU RIP OFF FOOD FROM A *UNICEF* WARE-HOUSE AND GET AWAY FROM THOSE USELESS CITY COPS! *SCREW YOU, MAN!!*
OLYMPUS POLICE
Oh LORD... VERILY SHOWER UPON ME THE DUST OF ANGELS... I'M *HURTIN'*, LORD!
JESUS... IF I WASN'T SO GODDAMN BRILLIANT, YOU SORRY BASTARDS'D BE *STARVIN'* NOW!
CHRIST
ZMMMM!
WH... WHA' THE HELL?!
HUH?
BYU BYU VUUN!
OLYMPUS POLICE

YEAH. THIS HERE CITY DON' LOOK LIKE MUCH *NOW,* BUT IF YA'S COME A FEW YEARS BACK, HELL, IT WAS PRETTY NICE! YOU UNNERSTAN' *ENGLISH?*
HEY... HEY! SORRY T'FRIGHTEN YA! EARTHLINGS ARE YOUR *FRIENDS,* HUH? Y'UNNERSTAN', *FRIENDS?*
Whew ...!
GOD-DAMMIT! MARTIANS!!
FX: KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG
KINDA LIKE *INSECT REPELLENT,* HUH? HEH, HEH!
THE *AUTOBUGS* WILL SECURE THE PERIMETER FOR US.
THIS SURE IS A HELL OF A LOT OF HASSLE JUST TO GRAB SOME BROAD AND HAUL HER BACK TO OLYMPUS!

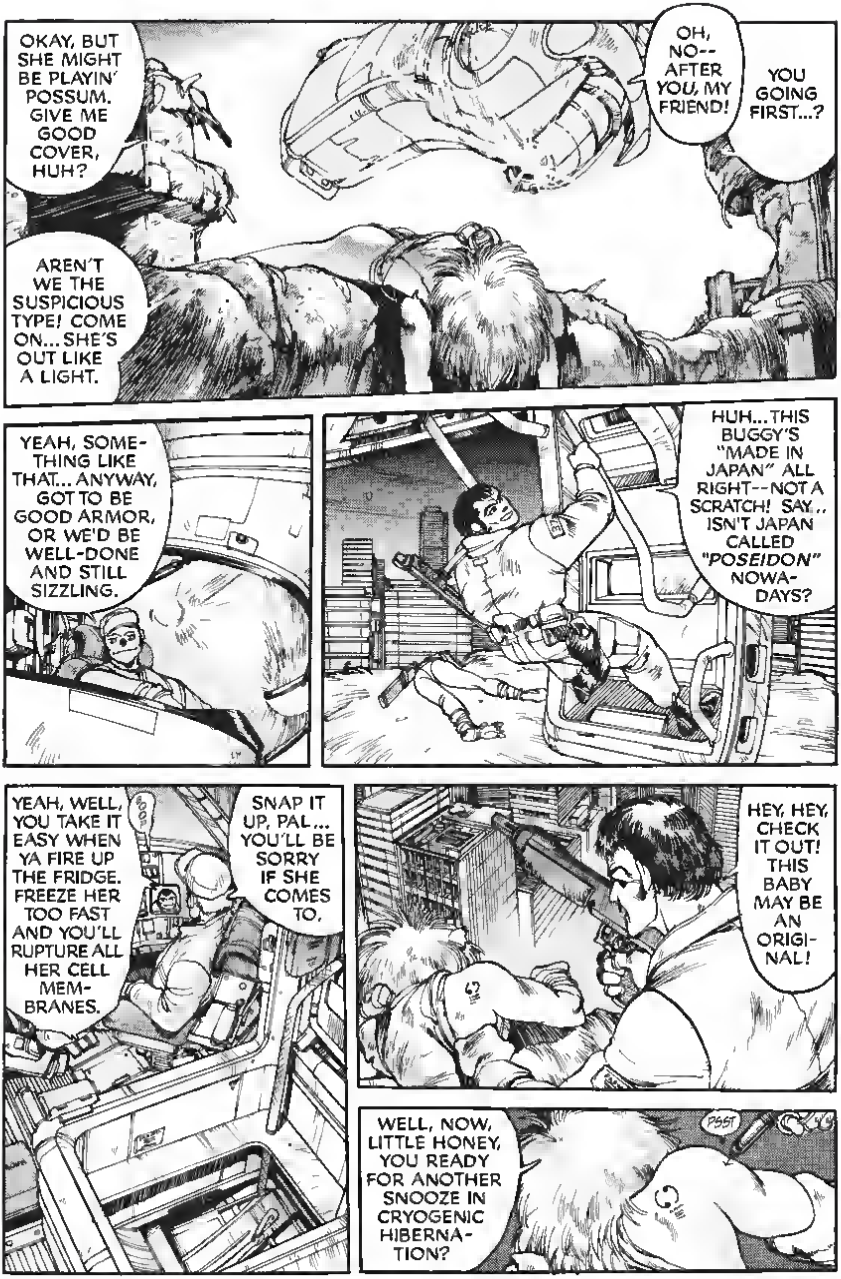
--DIE PLAYIN' BACKUP FOR THOSE FREAKED-OUT ROOKIES?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'--
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK-- SHOULD WE GO ALONG WITH THEM OUR-SELVES?
YEAH... HMM. ELEGANT LITTLE CRITTER, AIN'T SHE?
WELL, I JUST HOPE SHE'S SLEEPIN' OFF HER LAST DINNER OUT.
WE COULD'VE USED THOSE SCENT AND THERMAL READINGS WE GOT OFF HER DURING HER BEAUTY SLEEP UP THERE ON OL' LADY LIBERTY. MAN, WHAT A TASTY LITTLE BOOTY SHE'S GOT!
SURE WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TRACKING HER IF THE DOGS HADN'T SPOOKED. SOMETHIN' FUNNY GOIN' ON THERE, YOU THINK?
HEY! OVER HERE!
HUH... HARSH REALM!

OH, YEAH? COME ON... THE TERRITORIAL PATTERNS OF SOMETHING LIKE HER CAN GET PRETTY COMPLICATED.
HUH! WHAT'D I TELL YA?! LITTLE BITCH DOESN'T LIKE TO FEED IN HER OWN BACKYARD!
COME IN, 4S. THIS IS UNIT 1. CONFIRM QUARRY IS STILL IN THE SEARCH AREA. OVER.
NOTIFY UNIT 4S.
IF SHE WAS A REGULAR CYBORG, SHE'D SURE BE ABLE TO RAKE IN THE BUCKS IN A COMBAT ZONE!
TWO MEN WITH THEIR WEAPONS DRAWN AND COCKED KILLED AT CLOSE RANGE, UNIT 45. PLUS, THERE ARE SIGNS OF AT LEAST TWO MORE BODIES DRAGGED AWAY.
UNIT 1, HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S HER...?
SHE BETTER NOT BE AN ENHANCED BIOROID...
WE'RE NOT REAL SURE OF HER TYPE, UNIT 1. JUST HOPE SHE'S A CARBONICS POLICE MODEL LIKE THE FILE SAYS. UNIT 45 OUT.
SHE'S A COMBAT BIOROID, THEN?
SUFF

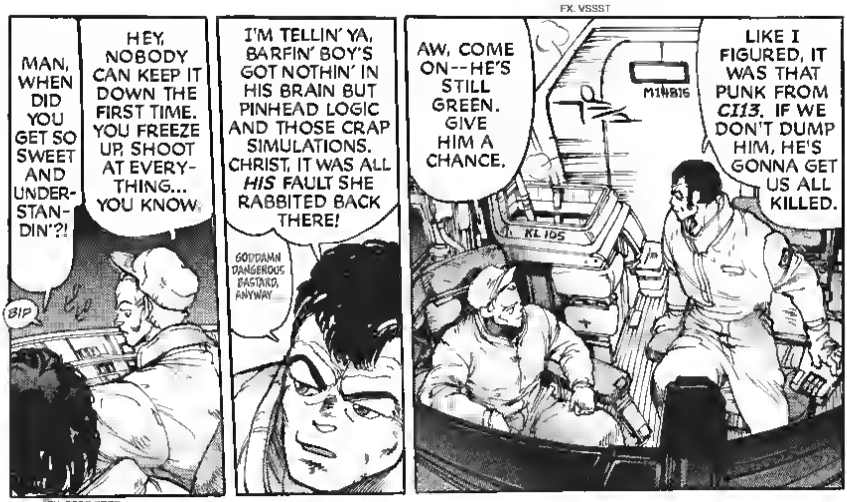
GREAT KING PLATO
GRRRR
KRAK
GLCH
GNNRR
ALL OR NOTHIN'
THIS IS LOVE!
FX: BLAM BLAM BLAM
HEY!
UNIT 1, I'M TAGGIN A SOLO HEARTBEAT ON THE TWELFTH FLOOR. UNIT 3, REDEPLOY INTO TWO SQUADS AND SECURE THE BUILDINGS ON EITHER SIDE--
FX: YIPE YIPE YIPE
FX: YIPE YIPE YIPE YIPE
FX: BLAM BLAM
FX: VNN
YOU LOUSY GREEN-HORN! ALL RIGHT, WE'RE GOIN' IN! YOU COVER THE EXIT, JERK!
OH, MAN...
HEAD FOR THE ROOF!
THOSE STUPID ASS-HOLES!

OH, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE... HEY! YOU TWO STAY HERE WITH HIM!
HRRGK...! UCK...
*FX VVNNN
PONK
IT'S HER!!
PTUNK

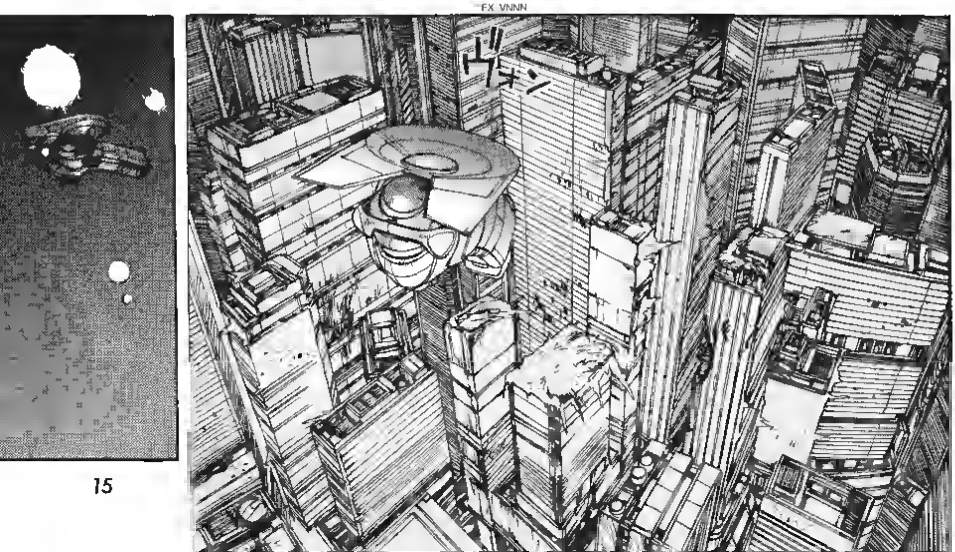
FX: WHAM
FX: SPRAK
FX: BOMF
FX: FWDD
FX: WHOK


OKAY, BUT SHE MIGHT BE PLAYIN' POSSUM. GIVE ME GOOD COVER, HUH?
OH, NO-- AFTER YOU, MY FRIEND!
YOU GOING FIRST...?
AREN'T WE THE SUSPICIOUS TYPE! COME ON... SHE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.
YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT... ANYWAY, GOT TO BE GOOD ARMOR, OR WE'D BE WELL-DONE AND STILL SIZZLING.
HUH... THIS BUGGY'S "MADE IN JAPAN" ALL RIGHT--NOT A SCRATCH! SAY... ISN'T JAPAN CALLED "POSEIDON" NOWADAYS?
YEAH, WELL, YOU TAKE IT EASY WHEN YA FIRE UP THE FRIDGE. FREEZE HER TOO FAST AND YOU'LL RUPTURE ALL HER CELL MEMBRANES.
SNAP IT UP, PAL... YOU'LL BE SORRY IF SHE COMES TO.
HEY, HEY, CHECK IT OUT! THIS BABY MAY BE AN ORIGINAL!
WELL, NOW, LITTLE HONEY, YOU READY FOR ANOTHER SNOOZE IN CRYOGENIC HIBERNATION?
PSST!

JEEZ, YOU NEED A VACATION, MAN. BET IT WOULDN'T BE SO FUNNY IF YOU SAW HER DOING IT.
HEH, HEH... A BIOROID LIVIN' ON HUMAN MEAT. KINDA MAKES SENSE WHEN YA THINK ABOUT IT, HUH?
YOU SURE ARE HEAVY FOR SUCH A LITTLE THING!
FX: BEEP
HMM?
YEAH, YEAH... YOU SAWED OFF HIS ARMS AND LEGS, THEN COOKED HIM UP BIT BY BIT.
SAY, I EVER TELL YA HOW WE ATE ONE A' THE GUYS IN OUR UNIT DURIN' THAT BREW-UP IN BRAZIL?
BEEP
I TELL YA, THERE WAS BLOOD EVERYWHERE
4!
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU BRITS WERE DOG LOVERS... HAH!
T-TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR!
GUN PLATFORM 4 WILL BE COVERIN' US ANYWAY. AFTER ALL, WE GOT A REAL V.I.P. ON BOARD--HEY YOU! YOU THE MORON WITH THE TRIGGER FINGER?!
A KGB/FBI JOINT OP? THIS I'VE GOTTA SEE. BET IT WON'T SCARE OFF THE IMPERIAL AMERICANA CIA, THOUGH.
ALL RIGHT! THE FEDERATED U.S.S.R. SAYS THEY'LL GIVE US AN ESCORT TO THE 70th PARALLEL
WE'LL BE DEBRIEFIN' YOU GUYS BACK IN OLYMPUS.
OKAY...WE PICK UP THE AUTOBUGS, THEN HEAD FOR THE PORT.


FX: VSSST
MAN, WHEN DID YOU GET SO SWEET AND UNDER-STAN-DIN'?!
HEY, NOBODY CAN KEEP IT DOWN THE FIRST TIME. YOU FREEZE UP, SHOOT AT EVERY-THING... YOU KNOW.
BIP
I'M TELLIN' YA, BARFIN' BOY'S GOT NOTHIN' IN HIS BRAIN BUT PINHEAD LOGIC AND THOSE CRAP SIMULATIONS. CHRIST, IT WAS ALL *HIS* FAULT SHE RABBITED BACK THERE!
GODDAMN DANGEROUS BASTARD, ANYWAY
AW, COME ON--HE'S STILL GREEN. GIVE HIM A CHANCE.
LIKE I FIGURED, IT WAS THAT PUNK FROM *C113*. IF WE DON'T DUMP HIM, HE'S GONNA GET US ALL KILLED.
M1A816
KL 105

FX: BEEP BEEP
THANKS A *LOT*, ASSHOLE. THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT!
YOU START WORRYIN' ABOUT GREENHORNS AND YER AN OLD MAN, PAL. GUESS I BETTER TEAM UP WITH A WOMAN NEXT TIME...
HEH... SORRY. DIDN'T MEAN TO SNAP AT YOU THERE.
YEAH, WELL, YOU SHOULD TALK... *YOU* SENT HIM INTO THAT MESS!
IT'S LIKE JUGGLIN' A COUPLA GRENADES WITH THE PINS PULLED... HE'S HEADIN' STRAIGHT FOR A BODY BAG. WASTE A' GODDAMN TIME!


FX: VNNN

3. プロメテウスの小天秤

SKRRRK
POLICE

OH, YES, DAHLING FRAGRANCE IS THE VERY HEART OF FASHION TEE HEE
OLD BATTLE AXE!
PURE PINOT NOIR MY DEAR
LIFE-DRUG IN IT, TOO?
WOW! THIS IS *REALLY* MADE FROM VAT-GROWN GRAPES?
EEP!
POOR YOSHI!

HE'S GONE... THESE PARTIES ARE SO DECADENT... WHAT CAN THEY ALL BE THINKING, ANYWAY?
YOU'LL CATCH COLD OUT HERE... SAY, WHERE'D YOUR FAN CLUB GO?
MY FRIEND'S ABOUT TO TURN INTO A PUMPKIN.
SORRY.
OH, DEAR... LEAVING SO SOON?
*GOOD OMEN
MMM... WHAT TIME IS IT?
STAR-GAZING... OR WOOL-GATHERING...?
HMM?
WINE SHOULD TURN TO BLOOD BEFORE YOU SAY THAT--
GRRR!
I WISH WE WERE STILL BACK IN BADSIDE.
WHOA, WHOA! JUST HANG ON THERE! YOU MEAN I CAN'T GET MORE THAN FIVE FEET AWAY FROM YOU FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS?
WELL, EVERY-THING'S ALL RIGHT NOW.. MY BRIAREOS CAME BACK TO ME.

IT'S A MAYDAY...
THERE HE GOES AGAIN, HEARING VOICES...!
HMPH!
IT'S REAL CLOSE... I'VE GOT TO GO.
FX FWA
THE NAME'S *BRIAREOS*-- BRIAREOS HECATONCHIRES. HAVE MY COAT AND BAGS BROUGHT TO THE LOBBY.
YES, SIR.
IT'S IN THE CYBORG ASSOCIATION CODE. I *HAVE* TO RESPOND TO SIGNALS LIKE THAT ONE. DIDN'T I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME THAT GUY USED IT TO TRAP ME? NEARLY BOUGHT IT THAT TIME...
HOW COME YOU ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION TO *THEM?* WHY NOT PAY ATTENTION TO *ME?!*
OH, WOW! YOU GOTTA GO *AL-READY?*
PLISH
HERE'S YOUR JEWELRY BACK, HITOMI!

I SAID WAIT UP! I KNOW YOU HEARD ME!
WOULD YOU SLOW DOWN, BRIAREOS?!
URK?
FX KNCH
FX GULP
IT'S PERSONAL BUSINESS, SO I'M COMING!
DROP DEAD!
THIS ISN'T ESWAT BUSINESS, DEUNAN-- YOU BETTER STAY HERE
HFF
HFF
HFF
哎呀，你怎么了？
FX TAK TAK TAK
FX VNN
一樓。
<FIRST>
您到乃樓？
<WHICH FLOOR?>
FX TRMP TRMP TRMP
HEY, WATCH IT!
HOLD IT!
OLYMPUS POLICE

YOUR CAR'S BEEN REQUISI-TIONED BY *ESWAT!* YOU DRIVE!
BRIAREOS! THIS ONE'S A LOT CLASSIER!
I'VE PICKED UP A MAYDAY. I NEED A RIDE.
HUH?!
OLYMPOS POLICE
I'LL BE CHANGING IN THE BACK SEAT, SO KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD!
YOU GOT IT!
SO STOP TALK-ING AND LET US IN!
FX: BAM
FX: VRMM
ALL *RIGHT!!* I'VE BEEN *WAITIN'* FOR SOME-THIN' LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN!
FX: VRMMM
COME ON. STEP ON IT!
FX: SKREEE
YAHOO!

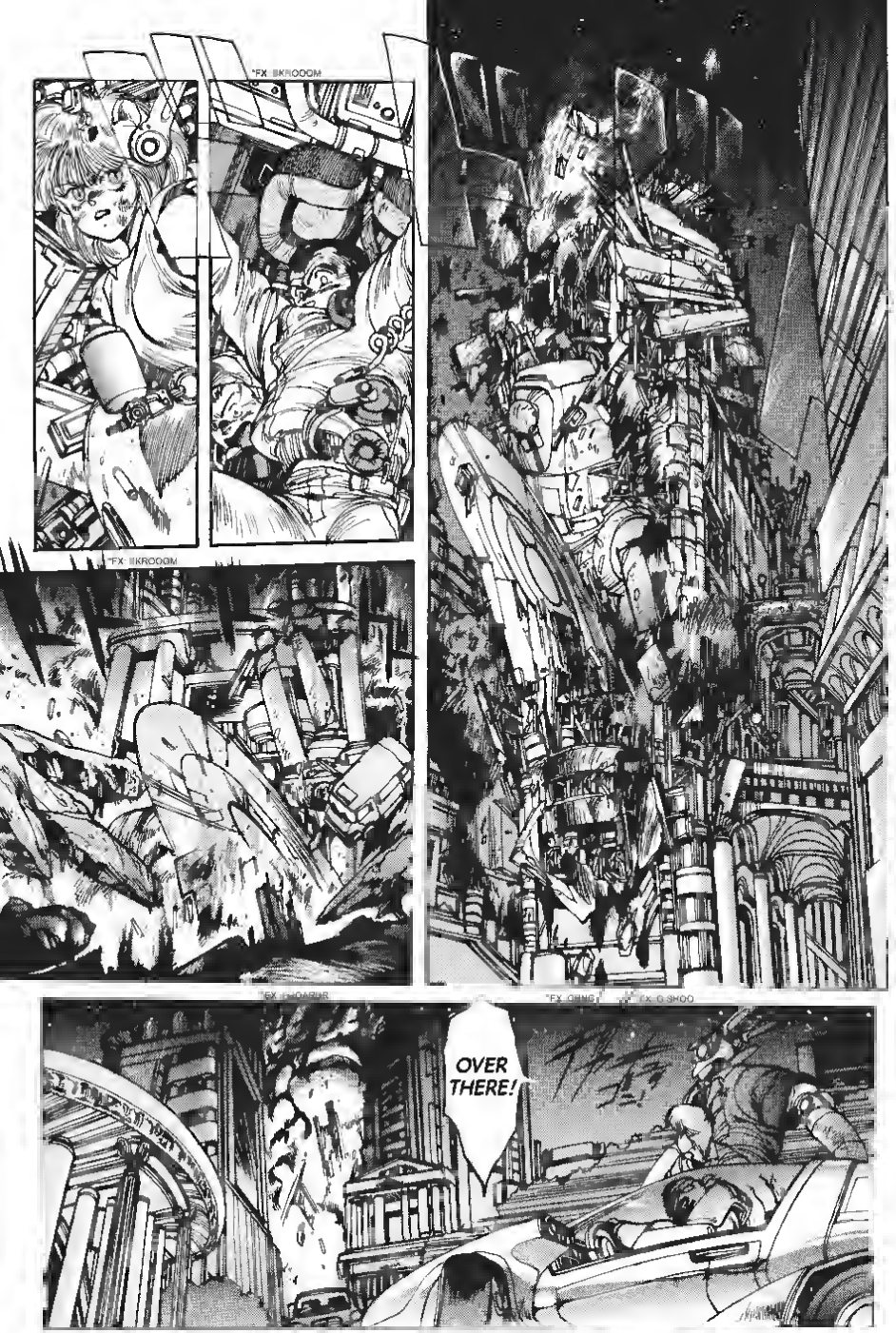
LOOK, I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL PLAYING AMATEUR STUNT MAN OUT HERE-- WOULD YOU *MIND* KEEPING QUIET?
OOLT!
OH, *MY*, WOULD YOU *PREFER* THAT I WAS WARMING THE BED FOR YOU ..?
HEY, THIS WAS *YOUR* IDEA! YOU COULD BE AT HOME IN BED!
*FWP FWP FWP
*VHMM MM
WILL YOU SAVE ME IF WE CRASH?
HE'S GOTTA WEIGH A *TON*... MY LEFT TIRES ARE BURNIN' UP. *ESWAT'S* GONNA REPLACE 'EM, RIGHT?
HEY! YOU *SLEEP* WITH THAT GUY?! THAT'S *MEGA!*
UMPH!
DEUNAN, THAT MAYDAY'S COMING FROM AN AIRCRAFT... IT JUST WENT OVER US...TURN LEFT! NO, NO--WAIT. HEAD FOR THE NEAREST AIRPORT!
TELL HIM TO LEAN OVER MORE. WILL YA? I GOT A WICKED PULL TO THE LEFT HERE!
*VRRMMMM
POLICE
*FX WEEOOO WEEOOO
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE

WE'VE GOT A MAYDAY SITUATION HERE!
WE'RE *ESWAT!* CLEAR OUR WAY TO THE AIRPORT!
HEH, HEH, HEH... NOT *THIS* TIME, GUYS!
FX HYRRNN
WEEOOO WEEOOO
OH, *NO!* NOT *YOU* AGAIN?!
FX WHSSSSHH
FX VRMMMM
JUST WAIT 'TIL *NEXT* TIME, GIRL!!
I AIN'T JUST ANOTHER WEEKEND ROAD WARRIOR IN A HOT CAR! I KNOW HOW TO *DRIVE,* LAWMAN!
HA HA! ALL *RIGHT!* I LOVE IT!
NO!
ROGER THAT, *ESWAT!* WE'RE YOUR ESCORT!
WHY'D THEY HAVE TO PICK *HER,* GOD-DAMN IT!
POLICE

FORGET IT! LOCK IN THE BACKUP CIRCUITS BEFORE WE LOSE POWER!
JEZUZ *CHRIST!* WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON BACK THERE?!
VNN VNN VNN VNN
GOD *DAMN* IT! THAT CRAP RADIO'S OUT!
MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
*FX: RYAAAAAA
FX: KSSH
FZZK
*FX: WHOK
*FX: WHOK

FX WHDD
AAA!
FX KRAK
HELMAN!!
FX FDD
HLLK!
FX SPRAKKK
FX FWA
FX WHMP
VNN
POLICE
POLICE

*FX WHANNGG
WHA?!
SON OF A BITCH! THE REACTOR CONTAIN-MENT FIELD'S FLUCTUATING--DAMN!! THE SAFETY'S CUT IN!
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP
WHEN I GET BACK, THOSE BASTARDS IN INTEL ARE DEAD MEAT!!
A DATA SCREW-UP, PAL! THEY GOT HER MODEL WRONG!
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
BUT HOW IN THE HELL COULD SHE...? THAT HIT YOU GAVE HER SHOULD HAVE LASTED TWICE AS LONG! AND EVEN IF SHE DID COME TO, HOW'D SHE GET OUT OF THE--
I'M TELLIN' YA, THAT'S HER!! THAT'S NO AUTOBUG OR LANDMATE MALFUNC-TION!
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
HOW MUCH FARTHER TO THE AIR-PORT?!
ABOUT TWELVE KLIKS!
AIEE!
HLP!
*FX SKRAAHHH
YAAA!
*FX WHOOM


*FX: SKROOOM
*FX: SKROOOM
*FX: ROARRR
*FX: GRRRG
*FX: G SHOO
OVER THERE!

HEY, CHILL OUT! IF I CRASH THE GATE I'LL SCREW UP MY PAINT JOB!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING ?!
FX: VRMM
COULD BE WORSE... COULD BE A SEWAGE TREAT-MENT PLANT.
COME ON! WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
HEY, THAT'S WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING THAT SPECIAL EXPO--THEY GONNA LET US IN?
FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
FX: MRMRM!!
ドドド

LEAVE US FOR LATER! DON'T LET HER GET AWAY!
ROAR
PACHI
PACHI
"SHHHH
GAIA'S SHUT OFF THE GAS MAINS!
GET HER!
YOU OKAY?
THE FIRE'S STABILIZED!
TUNK
PAK
FX: BROARRR
THERE'S ANOTHER GUY OVER HERE WITH A FLAIL CHEST!
DOCTOR! HURRY!
WHAT?!
GET THAT WINCH OVER HERE!
FOAM THE MAGAZINE BEFORE THE AMMO BLOWS!
COME ON. WE GOT WORK TO DO!
FX: ROAARRR
HE'S BEEN BEATEN UP BY A REAL PRO!
OVER HERE!
THIS GUY'S BONES ARE HALF BROKEN!
WHAT'S HE MEAN, "HER"..?

BRIAREOS! OVER THERE-- ELEVEN O'CLOCK HIGH!
THE... SHINING... EYES... HNNG!
ALL RIGHT. WHO DO WE HAVE TO CATCH? WERE YOU ESCORTING PRISONERS?
FX: KRAK
WHUPS!

FX ARGOOOOO
NO! D-DON'T KILL HER!
KOWA
FX WHSST
FX BAM
ばむ!
HUH?
FX WHSST
FX WHSS
FX BANG
HELP ME!
JEEZUZ! YOU GUYS ARE TRASHING MY CAR!!

*FX WHAMM

*FX SCREECH

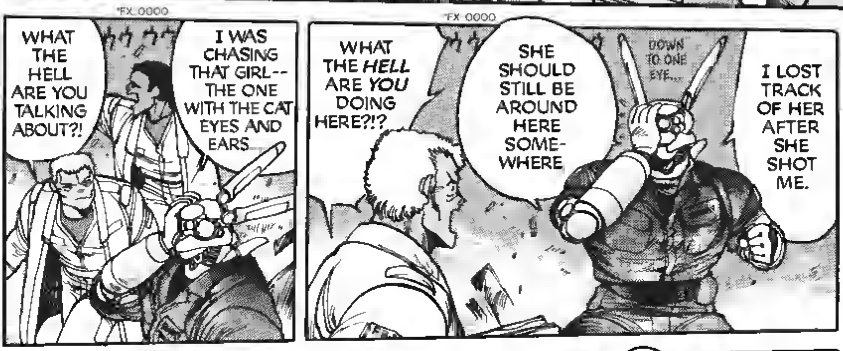
SIRENS ALREADY?! FAST BACKUP!
!

WHA--?
FX OOOO
FX OOOOOO
FX SMAK
FX KOSH
FX SPRAKK
F.B.I
*FX SKREEFEE
WHERE THE HELL IS FANG?
YOU OKAY, BRONTES?
SON OF A *BITCH!* SHE PULLED MY CHEST HAIRS RIGHT OUT!
FX SSSSS
F.B.I

FX WHUMP
ばっ
WHA--?!

This kind of thing is possible even without an automatic

WAAAAA
やめ
あああ
SHIT!
DAMN IT!
F.B.I


FX 0000
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
I WAS CHASING THAT GIRL-- THE ONE WITH THE CAT EYES AND EARS
FX 0000
WHAT THE *HELL* ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?!?
SHE SHOULD STILL BE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE
DOWN TO ONE EYE...
I LOST TRACK OF HER AFTER SHE SHOT ME.

FX 0000
THE TRACER'S A GOOD TWO KLIKS OUT AND MOVING FAST!
WHERE ARE FANG AND THE QUARRY NOW?
ME!
ANYONE HURT OVER HERE?!

FX 0000
CLASSIFIED! I CAN'T ANSWER THAT, BRIAREOS!
WHAT'S UP? YOU AFTER SOMEONE ELSE?
FORGET CROWD CONTROL! WE'RE MOVING OUT!

FX FWUMP
STREPOS! WE'VE GOT AN H-CLASS CYBORG HERE, NEEDS A MEDI-TECH!
BEEP
Tcc!!
ARUGESS, I DON'T THINK I SHOULD MOVE-- FEELS LIKE I'VE GOT A FRAGMENT NEAR THE NEURAL INTERFACE FOR MY OPTICS.
Mrow!
不行行
!
MUMBLE MUMBLE
LOOK. A POSEIDON SPY GOT INTO THE AEGIS EDUCATION FILES. WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL AGENT TRACKING HIM RIGHT NOW!
FX OOOOOOOO
RACING WORLD
F.B.I.
WHEN ARE WE EVER GOING TO GET SOME SLEEP AROUND HERE?
WILD VIXENS ON THE LOOSE, FOREIGN COUNTRIES STEALING OUR GOLDEN APPLES...
MRA
mute
EEKAT

FX CHAK
BEEP BEEP
TUG TUG
SHK
FX CHAK
SO TELL ME WHERE THE DAMN GATE IS!! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THE ROADS INSIDE A FAIRGROUND, HUH?!
TUK
COME ON! BRAIREOS'S TRACER IS MOVING OUT OF RANGE!
GSHAK
MAN, YOU ALWAYS CARRY THAT CRAP AROUND WITH YOU?
DAMN IT ALL!
CLIK

ANTI-RIOT BATON ROUND

WHOO
KEEP TO THE RIGHT AND STOP WHEN I TELL YOU!
HEY! THERE'S SOME-THING MOVIN' UP THERE!
*FX KRANG
*FX VRMM
*FX SKREEEE
EEK!
VRMMMM
FX SKRASSH
*FX SKREEEEE
SOME-ONE ELSE IS ON THE RUN?!
MY... MY .. CAR...

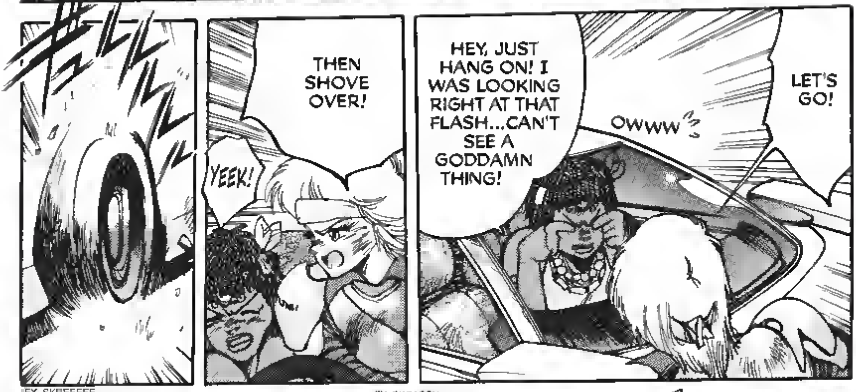
HOLD IT, YOU!!
GE--GE-- GET OFF MY CAR!!
GSH!
FX SKREEEEEEEE
YOU STAY IN THE CAR UNLESS YOU FEEL LIKE GETTING KILLED!
HOLY SHIT, WE HIT HIM!!
GYAA
H. H. H. H.
FX VRMBMMM
FX WHOO
KRAK
KYU

FX KCHSSS
SHUT UP AND KILL THE ENGINE!
KCHK
I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* OF THIS CRAP!
SPIK
KLIK
FX SKRAK
SSSS
...
"FX VZZZT
THEY'RE OUT COLD. AND THOSE WEAPONS... FAKES? I CAN'T BELIEVE ANYONE WOULD WEAR A LANDMATE FOR PLAYING WAR GAMES, BUT...
FX SSSSSS
BIP BIP
BIP
FX KCHAK

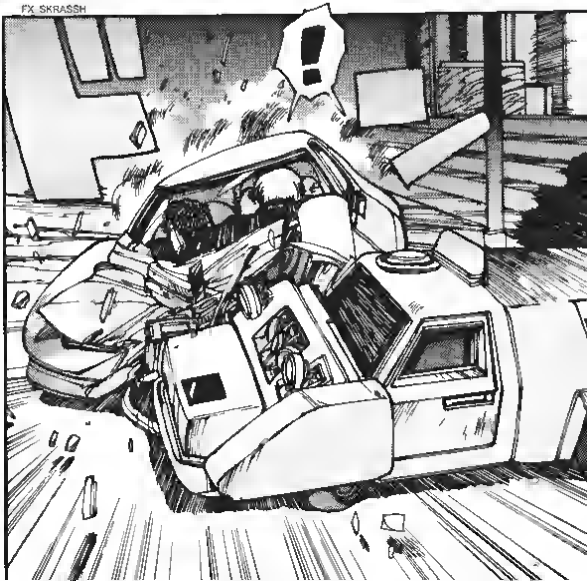
SKRKK
HUH ..?
FX KNK
HEY!
FX WHDD
SMAK
!
!
BLAM
POLICE S.W.A.T.
FX WHSSHH
FX SMAK
WOMAN ?!
!!
FX BLAM

FX DASH
WHA ---?
!
*FX VWIP VWIP VWIP
FX WHKOOM
!
*FX THUK THUK
FX ZA ZA!
HUH?
DOWN!
FX BAM BAM BAM BAM!

WHAT THE--?
?
?
HMM?


FX SKREEEEEE
THEN SHOVE OVER!
YEEK!
HEY, JUST HANG ON! I WAS LOOKING RIGHT AT THAT FLASH...CAN'T SEE A GODDAMN THING!
OWWW
LET'S GO!

WHAT ?!
FBI?!!


FX SKRASSH
!

IS THAT CARL'S DAUGHTER?
*FX KRSH!
CHAK
*FX SKREEEEEE
FX WHAM
NOW JUST HANG ON...!
ALL RIGHT YOU! HANDS ON THE CAR!
*FX KRASH
FX SSSSSSS
OW OWWW...
FX SSSSSS
CHRIST, DON'T TELL ME YOU TWO ARE ACTUALLY WORKING FOR POSEIDON...?
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
SO WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF CHECKING WITH ESWAT ABOUT YOU AND BRIAREOS. THEY SAY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON VACATION, GIRL!
LEAVE IT FOR THE BOMB SQUAD! MAKE SURE THEY SUIT UP AND I WANT AT LEAST FOUR INVESTIGATORS ON IT!
THE EXO'S OVER THERE! IT'S ONE OF THOSE ISRAELI LANDMATES!
FX SSSSSS

YOU SURE CAN SWAP PARTS FAST WITH THAT H-CLASS CYBORG SYSTEM! I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU SO SOON!
HAH! BRIAREOS, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU...!
ESWAT. LET ME THROUGH.
HOW THE HELL DO YOU RELEASE THIS BODY ARMOR?
IF BRIAREOS WERE HERE, HE'D POUND YOU!
CHIEF! FANG'S TRACER SIGNAL IS CLOSING IN!
HMPH!
THANKS, BUT I'LL CHECK ANYWAY.
THE LOCAL RESCUE UNIT WILL VOUCH FOR OUR ALIBI.
EXCUSE ME! I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS!
SNFF!
POLICE ESWAT
YEAH...THAT GIRL WE WERE AFTER SHOT OUT MY LEFT EYE, SO ARUGESS CALLED IN A MEDITECH.
?
WAIT A SEC.. "SWAP PARTS" ...?
IDIOT!
WELL, I'M PRETTY WELL ARMORED.. FIGURED I'D BE FINE.
YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO RUNNING OFF WITHOUT ANY BACK-UP...?

YOU DEPEND ON GUNS TOO MUCH! LOOK AT THOSE FBI GUYS...THEY DON'T EVEN DRAW UNTIL THE SHOOTING STARTS. AW...COME ON...I HATE IT WHEN YOU DO THAT...
I--I WAS SCARED, DAMN IT! MY WARNING SHOT WAS OFF. THAT RIOT BATON ROUND DIDN'T WORK, NOT EVEN A DIRECT HIT AT POINT-BLANK RANGE! AND THEN I, I...
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WITH SOMEONE WHO'S ONLY DONE SWAT - NO INVESTIGATIVE WORK
SNFF
HEY, YOUR FACE! THOSE SCRATCH-ES...
IDIOT!
BETTER DUMP THAT ARMOR, JUST IN CASE.
HER KNIFE HAD A PECULIAR SMELL. STRANGE SHEEN.
ZATCH
WELL, WHAT WAS SHE? CYBORG? I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT POSEIDON HAVING BIOROID TECHNOLOGY.
SO SHE'S ALL YOURS NOW.
SHE GOT AWAY, BUT I HIT HER WITH A B-TYPE ODOR BOMB.
H-HEY! THAT'S THE GUY WHO...

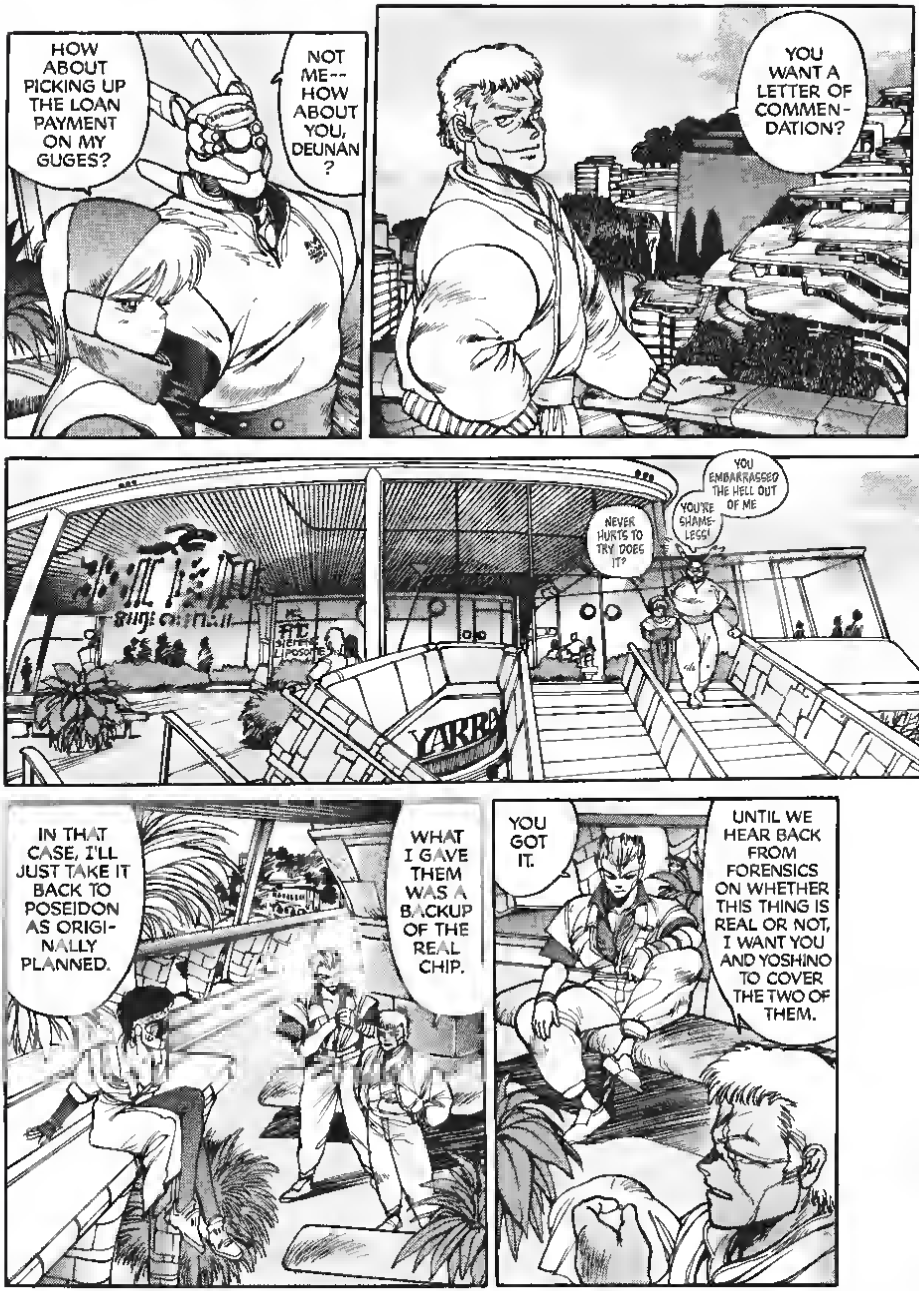
I GUARANTEE SHE'S NOT AN OLYMPUS COMBAT BIOROID. NO RESONANCE.
I NEED FIFTEEN MINUTES TO TRANSCRIBE MY REPORT. I'LL DELIVER IT TO YOUR VEHICLE.
AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO COMB THE AREA WHERE SHE LOST ME.
I'M LEAVING MY PRIVATE COMLINK OPEN. IF THE DRAGNET SNARES HER, CALL ME.
FANG, WAIT.
WHAT ABOUT THOSE TWO?
DIFFERENT SMELL. DIFFERENT FEELING.
NOT RUNNERS, EITHER. THEY'RE CLEAN.
YOU HEAR THAT?
YEAH. LOOKS LIKE WE CAN RE-STORE THE ANTI-CYBORG RIFLES WHILE WAITING FOR THEIR ALIBI TO CLEAR.
STREPOS, HOW ARE THE CHECK-POINTS?
WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE WEST OF THE CANAL. JUST BE GLAD THIS DISTRICT DOESN'T HAVE AN AIRBASE. AS LONG AS SHE'S CARRYING THAT FILE ON VOLATILE MICROCHIP, SHE CAN'T USE THE SEWERS OR CANAL TO GET AWAY. AND IT'S TAGGED SO THE TRANS-NET SENSORS WILL CATCH HER IF SHE TRIES THAT.
THANKS FOR SAVING MY NECK! I OWE YOU ONE.
FORGET IT. STAY CLEAN.

I KNOW...I KNOW...YOU'RE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. WE DON'T WANT TO GET IN YOUR WAY, EITHER.
ALL RIGHT, BRI-AREOS.
HMM...
LEAVE 1 SQUAD TO CHECK THIS SITE AND SEND EVERYONE ELSE TO THE CPS. GET READY TO MOVE OUT!
YOU GUYS IN *ESWAT* TAKE OUT CRIMINALS WHO ARE A CLEAR THREAT TO THE CITIZENRY...YOU GOT IT EASY, COMPARED TO US AND IT'S ESPECIALLY TOUGH, NOW--THINGS ARE DAMNED DELICATE HERE IN OLYMPUS!
I'M JUST IN THE INVESTIGATIVE BUSINESS, GOT IT? THE SUSPECT GOES TO EARTH AMONG CIVVIES--INVISIBLE, RIGHT? YOU MAY GET STABBED IN THE BACK RIGHT IN THE STREET, YOUR MAIL MIGHT EXPLODE IN YOUR FACE.
TOP SCORER IN THE DEBT COMPETI-TION... SHEESH!
HEY... YOU BETTER COUGH UP FOR MY CAR, DARLIN'!
YOU AND I ARE BORN POLICE, BUT WE'RE NO GOOD WITHOUT GUYS LIKE HIM BACKING US UP.
YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK I LIKE HIM.
GOT me?
WE *DON'T* NEED ANY TRIGGER-HAPPY COPS STICKING THEIR NOSE INTO EVERYTHING!
CHRIST, I'M TURNING INTO A BASTARD. JOB STRESS...
DOC, DOC! WILL HER FACE BE OKAY? ARE THOSE GOING TO BE SCARS? HEY!
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHY WE HAVE TO PAY FOR A NEW *RIGHT* EYE, TOO!
SO WHO *CARES?!*
NOW THIS IS NO SCRATCH! CUT THROUGH, DAMN NEAR!

POINT MAN

BRL... Y'DUMMY MMPH
ZZZZZ
MMM
BRIARE-OS!

HMMM... EVEN AT MAXIMUM ZOOM I CAN ONLY *JUST* MAKE OUT THE BASIC PATTERN.
*FX. ZRRT
IF THAT SPY YESTERDAY REALLY *DID* PLANT IT ON ME, SHE'LL BE COMING HERE TO GET IT BACK!
HEY! I JUST THOUGHT OF SOME-THING!
SO THAT'S WHY SHE WENT FOR THE BACK OF MY HEAD THAT WAY--SHE MUST HAVE BEEN DESPERATE TO UNLOAD IT. I GUESS I OWE MY LIFE TO THAT "FANG" GUY TWICE OVER. SHOULD WE TAKE IT TO THE FBI?
IT'S A TYPICAL EVEN HACKNEYED TRICK
I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S PART OF A FILE OR SOME KIND OF DECRYPTION KEY. BUT JUDGING FROM THE SITUATION, I'D SAY IT MUST BE WHAT THE FBI WAS SEARCHING FOR YESTERDAY.
DIDN'T SHE WORRY ABOUT IT FALLING OFF? AND HOW ABOUT ME FINDING IT, LIKE I JUST DID?
IF YOU'RE GONNA GO FISHING, MAY AS WELL TRY FOR THE BIG ONE.
NO PROBLEM. WE GIVE IT TO THE FBI, THEY GIVE US A FAKE CHIP MICRO-TRANSMITTER. YOU PUT IT BACK ON YOUR NECK WHERE IT WAS STUCK BEFORE, AND WAIT.
OUR SPY FRIEND CAN AMUSE HERSELF ROOTING THROUGH OUR GARBAGE.
HEH HEH
USING THAT ZOOM FUNCTION IS TOUGH!
LOOKS LIKE WE SHOULD TAKE A WALK.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. STILL, THAT SPY MUST BE DESPERATE TO GET AWAY, WHICH MEANS SHE'LL PROBABLY WANT TO MAKE CONTACT SOMETIME TODAY.
FOR THAT YOU'VE GOT TO THANK VEL-- er, ARUGESS. NORMALLY, WE'D HAVE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT DOING PAPERWORK, OR EVEN LOCKED UP IN AN FBI CELL, AND IF IT FELL OFF THERE...

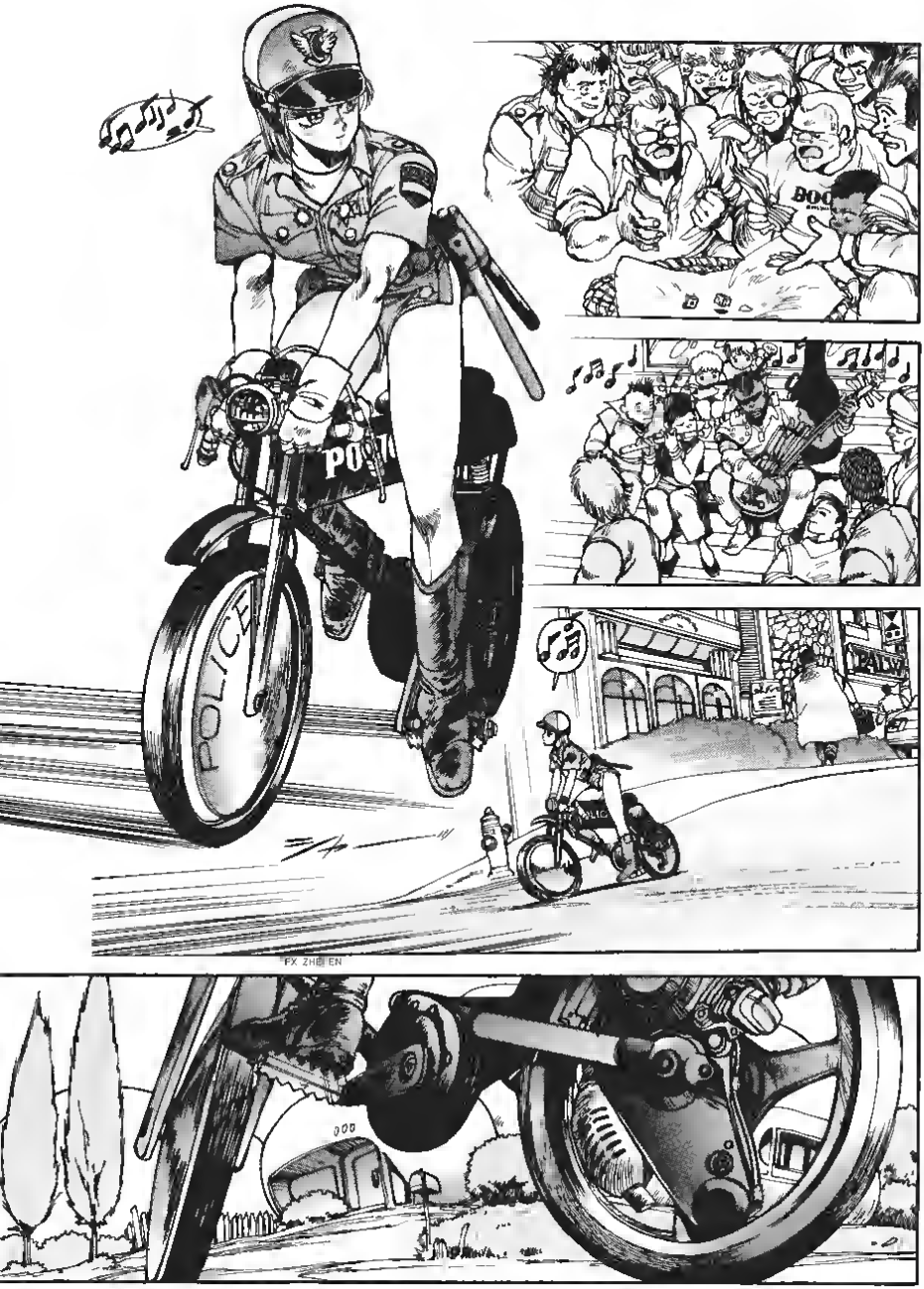

HOW ABOUT PICKING UP THE LOAN PAYMENT ON MY GUGES?
NOT ME-- HOW ABOUT YOU, DEUNAN?
YOU WANT A LETTER OF COMMENDATION?
YOU EMBARRASSED THE HELL OUT OF ME
YOU'RE SHAMELESS!
NEVER HURTS TO TRY, DOES IT?
YARRA
IN THAT CASE, I'LL JUST TAKE IT BACK TO POSEIDON AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.
WHAT I GAVE THEM WAS A BACKUP OF THE REAL CHIP.
YOU GOT IT.
UNTIL WE HEAR BACK FROM FORENSICS ON WHETHER THIS THING IS REAL OR NOT, I WANT YOU AND YOSHINO TO COVER THE TWO OF THEM.

AND I STILL THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RUN A BACK-GROUND CHECK ON THAT CYBORG AND THE GIRL.
IT'S A BIG, BAD WORLD OUT THERE, LITTLE BOY. POSEIDON ISN'T THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT WANTS OLYMPUS FOR ITSELF.
SFX: FWAA
ARUGESS, THIS LAD HERE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND A *THING*. DROP HIM OFF THE TEAM, WILL YOU?
TMP
TOO BAD THEY DON'T TRUST US. THIS TAKES TOO MUCH TIME.
I SAID *BOTH* OF YOU COVER THEM-- *ORDERS!*
I'LL INFILTRATE *SWAT*. EASY ENOUGH... MY COVER'S STILL INTACT.
I'LL TELL LANCE YOU NEED *ESWAT* CLEARANCE. THERE'LL BE A PASS IN THE DROP BOX BY NOON.
THAT'S ENOUGH OF YOUR CRAP! LET'S GET MOVING!
OR DO YOU HAVE SOME OTHER REASON FOR BEING SO CARE-FUL? SOMETHING LIKE, "IF THOSE TWO TURN OUT TO BE AGENTS, IT'S GOING TO BE A BIT EMBARRASSING FOR MR. ARUGESS"...?
IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME, IT'LL TAKE TOO MUCH TIME. OLD AGE MAKING YOU A COWARD, ARUGESS?
HAH!

PRO STREET
Kok beni?

OTO.
TERRIBLE

CROQUETTE
POLI


POLICE
FX ZHEN

SO THIS IS HITOMI'S NEW PLACE... HMMM.
LOOKS LIKE AN INSECT-EATING MUSH-ROOM.
WELL, YOU WON'T FIND A WORSE-TASTING BUG THAN ME!
HITOMI'S
ZRCH
FX KCHAK
FX SSHHSS
ALL ALONE TODAY?
BRIAREOS WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO GET SOME KIND OF BULLET-PROOFING DONE.
WHERE'S HITOMI?
HEY, DEUNAN! GOOD TO SEE YOU!
HI!
FX SSSHHHSSS

YEAH, WELL... ACTUALLY, SHE'S GOT TO SHARE IT WITH SOME BIGWIG NAMED ARTEMIS. HARDLY EVER AROUND, THOUGH.
I HEAR SHE HAD TO MOVE OUT OF HER OLD PLACE BECAUSE IT WAS OVERRUN WITH IMMIGRANTS. LOOKS LIKE SHE'S DONE OKAY FOR HERSELF, THOUGH.
HMM.
I THINK SHE'S IN THE BACK ROOM IN THE BLOCK OVER THERE. SHE'S GOT COMPANY. SOME RUSSIANS.
YEAH, BUT YOU KNOW, THE PARTS AND ADJUSTMENTS I CAN TINKER WITH GET FEWER AND FEWER ALL THE TIME. THESE THINGS ARE ALMOST TOO WELL-MADE THESE DAYS, DAMN IT...
YOU REALLY NEED *ALL* THOSE TOOLS?
WHICH IS?
GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU.
I DUNNO...YOU'D THINK THEY COULD LEAVE SOME LEEWAY IN THERE, THOUGH. TIME FOR A CHANGE IN DESIGN PHILOSOPHY?
THANKS, YOSHI.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU NEED SOME LIFE EXTENSION TREATMENTS FOR YOUR SPIRIT.
FX CHAK

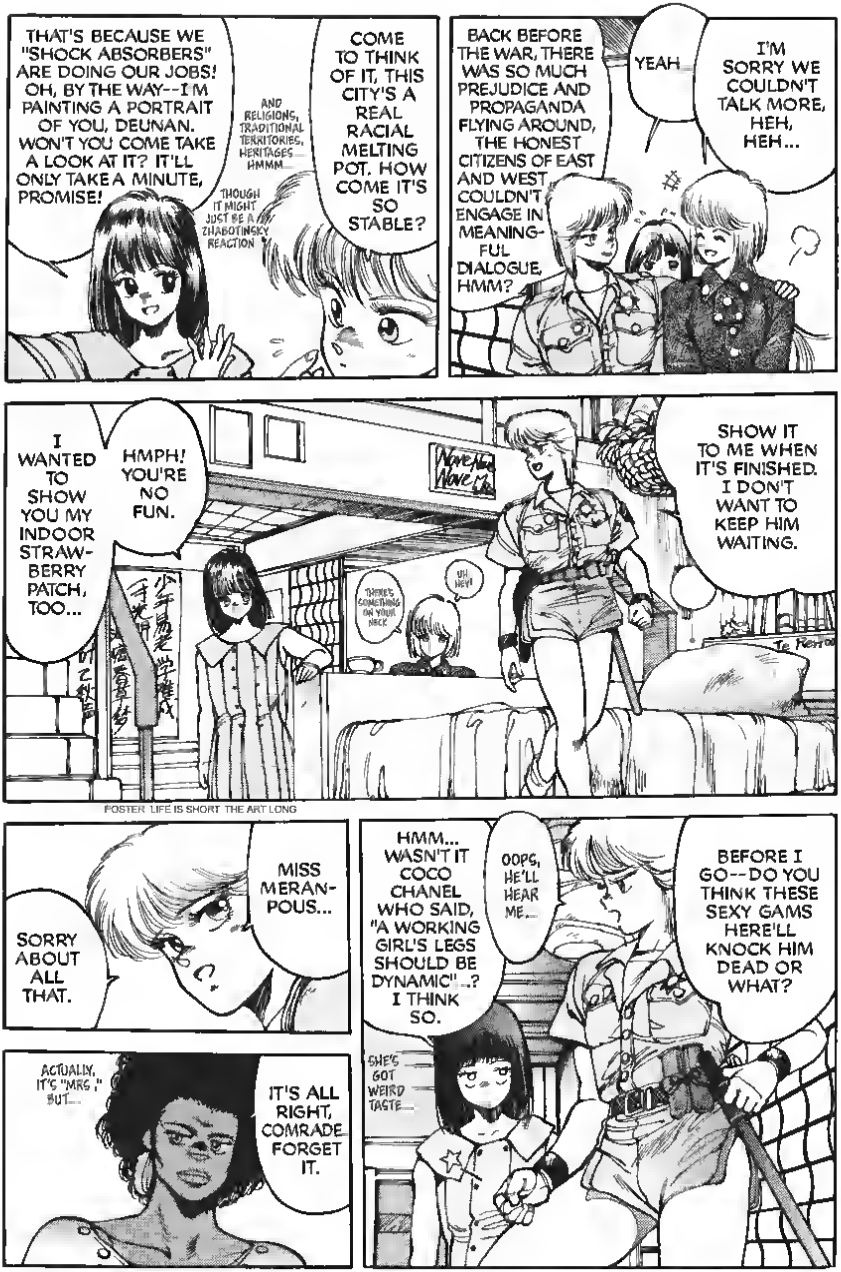
COME ON IN!
HITOMI, IT'S ME, DEUNAN! YOU HOME?
JEEZ...THIS PLACE'D BE A REAL PAIN FOR ANY SORT OF INDOOR ASSAULT.
*FX: KSHAK
ALLO!
*FX: WHST
!
CHK
*FX: FLINCH
OOPS!

GEE...MY HEART'S STILL POUNDING, DEUNAN!
YOU AMERIKI ARE PRETTY SCARY!
ARE NOT! WOW A CATHEDRAL CEILING!
WELL, GEE...
SHE WAS POSITIVELY *LURKING* BY THE DOOR, NOT MAKING A SOUND...
THIS CITY'S SO PEACEFUL, YOU'RE BOUND TO LET DOWN YOUR GUARD SOMETIMES.
DON'T FEEL BAD.
I'M LUCKY SHE WAS A POLICE OFFI-CER...
WOW...YOU ORIGINALS ARE SO LUCKY! YOU HEAL SO FAST, YOU CAN'T SEE THE REPAIR MARKS...
THEY SAID IT'S THE SAME TECHNOLOGY THEY USE FOR LIFE EXTENSIONS. THEY DOCS KEPT TALKING ABOUT SOUND WAVES, VIBRATIONS, HOW IMPORTANT RHYTHM IS...IT WAS LIKE THEY WERE DISCUSSING MUSIC.
I'M JUST WEARING THIS FOR FUN. WE'VE GOT A BRIEFING AT FIVE.
HEH
I'VE NEVER SEEN *THAT* UNI-FORM BEFORE.
AND YOUR CHEEK! THE SCARS ARE ALL GONE!

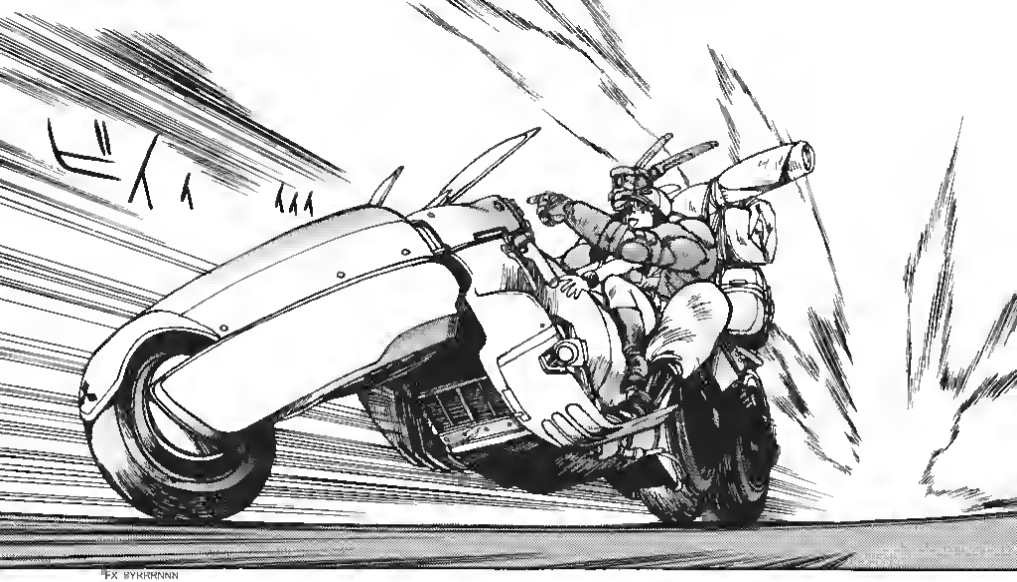
I'M MASHA GAVILOV THE THIRD. SHE'S MY BODYGUARD, MISS MERANPOUS. YOU MUST BE THE FAMOUS DEUNAN KNUTE...?
OH! SORRY, SORRY!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE US?
AHEM!
FX KLAK
OF COURSE!
SO YOU'RE ASSERTING YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS?
SHE GOT STRANDED HERE DURING THE WAR, WHILE SHE WAS ON A WORLD TOUR. THAT'S WHEN SHE LEARNED OUR LANGUAGE.
NO...THE OUTSKIRTS OF MOSCOW!
YOU'RE FROM THE EAST BLOC? ENGLAND, MAYBE?
IT'S A U.S./AFRICAN BLACK SUPPORT GROUP FORMED RIGHT AFTER THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA THEY CALL THEM "THE BLACK NAZIS," BUT THEY'RE NOT REALLY THAT KIND OF ORGANIZATION AT ALL.
EUMEN-IDES...?
SHE'S FROM UPPER ZAIRE
CHAK
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I WENT TO MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, I'VE HEARD IT ALL. BUT YOU'D BE SMART NOT TO TALK THAT WAY ON THE OUTSIDE--IF SOMEONE FROM *EUMENIDES* HEARD YOU...
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT THERE AREN'T MANY BLACK SOVIETS, ARE THERE? YOU'RE NOT JUST SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM, OR FREEDOM FROM--SORRY, MOST OF THE BLACKS I MEET THROUGH MY JOB ARE TRYING TO KILL ME--MAKES ME A LITTLE PREJUDICED HOPE I DIDN'T OFFEND YOU.
I ONLY KNOW AFRO-AMERICANS OR ANC MEMBERS

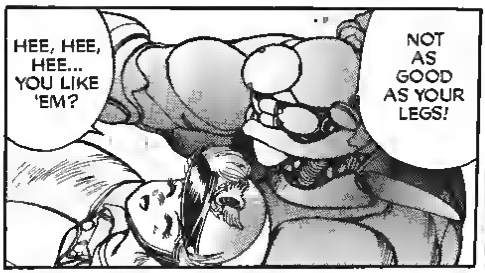
YOU KNOW, WHAT WE'RE ALL SEEKING ISN'T AS DIFFERENT AS THE WORDS WE USE MAKE IT SOUND.
NO, BECAUSE THERE'S NO SNOW-STORMS. HA, HA...
FOR "FREE CRIMI-NALS"?
IT'S A NICE PLACE, LIKE THE "CITY OF BUREAU-CRATS" L.A.'S TURNED INTO, YOU KNOW?
WHAT.?
OLYMPUS IS A WONDERFUL CITY... SO MUCH FREEDOM, JUST LIKE MOSCOW. EVEN EUMENIDES ISN'T VERY POWERFUL HERE.
ISN'T IT JUST TOO JAPANESE?
OH, WOW! "MYSTER-IES OF THE ORIENT?"..!
A GARDEN IN A RABBIT HUTCH!
De gustibus non est disputandum
LIKE THEY SAY, "ALL THE EXTERNAL UNIVERSE IS GATHERED HERE, FORMING THE INNER UNIVERSE. ALL THE INNER UNIVERSE IS HERE, CREATING THE OUTER UNIVERSE."
"SHIKISOKUZEKU, KUSOKUZESHIKI,"-- IT'S LIKE A MANDELBROT SET!
THAT'S NOT ALL IT IS!
WATER DEPTH, TOO.
A MUCH MORE DYNAMIC HARMONY THAN IN AFRICA--NOT SO MUCH "STILLNESS" AS "CONTROL," I THINK.
ISN'T THIS ONE OF THOSE ZEN GARDENS OR SOME-THING?

FX VRRRM
KYU
FX VRMMBMBMBMBMB
OH, WOW!
WHO --?
IT'S MY RIDE!
?

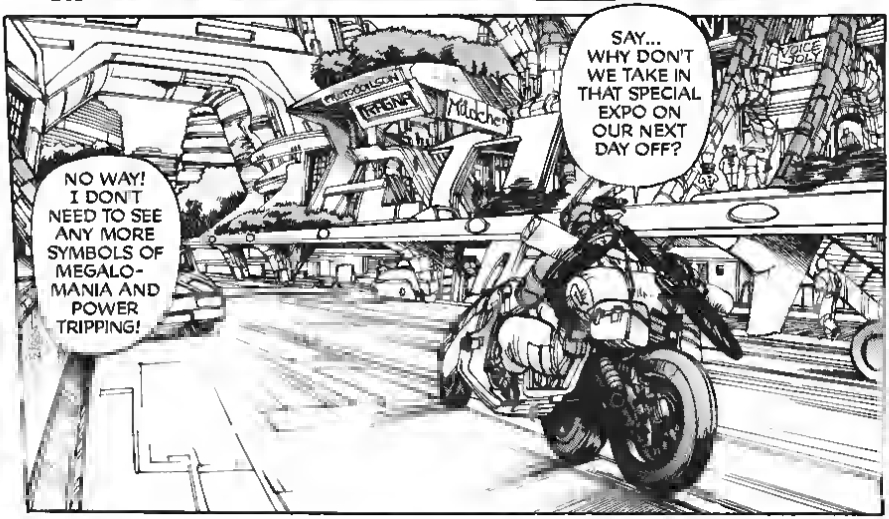

THAT'S BECAUSE WE "SHOCK ABSORBERS" ARE DOING OUR JOBS! OH, BY THE WAY--I'M PAINTING A PORTRAIT OF YOU, DEUNAN. WON'T YOU COME TAKE A LOOK AT IT? IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE, PROMISE!
AND RELIGIONS, TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES, HERITAGES... HMMM...
THOUGH IT MIGHT JUST BE A ZHABOTINSKY REACTION
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS CITY'S A REAL RACIAL MELTING POT. HOW COME IT'S SO STABLE?
BACK BEFORE THE WAR, THERE WAS SO MUCH PREJUDICE AND PROPAGANDA FLYING AROUND, THE HONEST CITIZENS OF EAST AND WEST COULDN'T ENGAGE IN MEANING-FUL DIALOGUE, HMM?
YEAH...
I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T TALK MORE, HEH, HEH...
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU MY INDOOR STRAW-BERRY PATCH, TOO...
HMPH! YOU'RE NO FUN.
THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR FACE
UH, HEY!
SHOW IT TO ME WHEN IT'S FINISHED. I DON'T WANT TO KEEP HIM WAITING.
FOSTER LIFE IS SHORT THE ART LONG
SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT.
MISS MERAN-POUS...
ACTUALLY, IT'S "MRS." BUT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, COMRADE... FORGET IT.
HMM... WASN'T IT COCO CHANEL WHO SAID, "A WORKING GIRL'S LEGS SHOULD BE DYNAMIC"...? I THINK SO.
OOPS, HE'LL HEAR ME...
SHE'S GOT WEIRD TASTE...
BEFORE I GO--DO YOU THINK THESE SEXY GAMS HERE'LL KNOCK HIM DEAD OR WHAT?

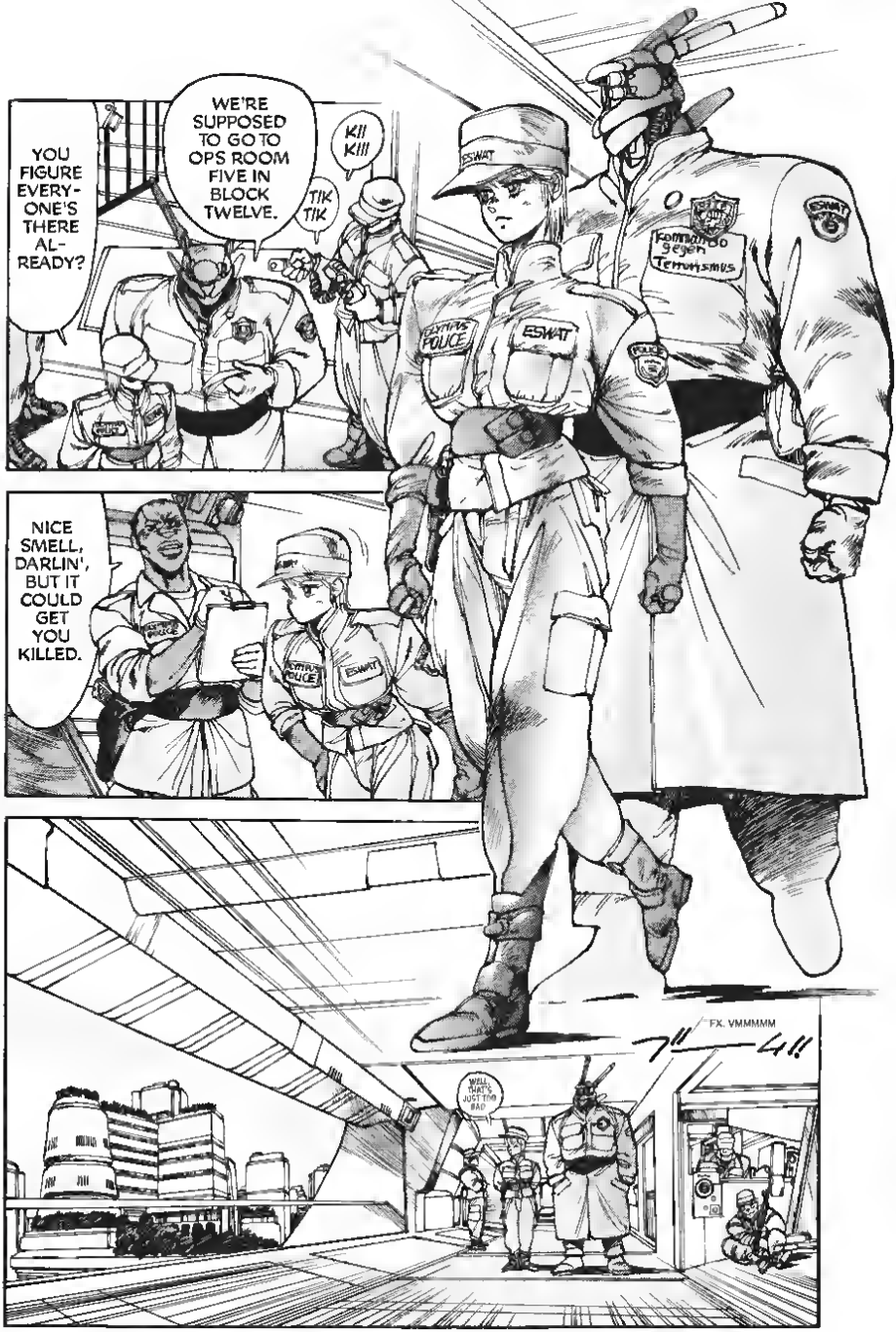
*BRMMM
WE'LL LOAD IT IN BACK.
WHAT? ME TOO?
WOW! WOW!
FX: BRMMM BRMM
SO WHERE DO I SIT, HUH?
SURE. WEAR YOUR LANDMATE, AND YOU'LL BE A GOOD FIT.
I...I DON'T WANT TO BEG YOU TO GIVE ME A RIDE, BUT THE NEXT TIME YOU COME, COULD YOU...?
GR RRR!
SEE YOU LATER!
FX: VRMMMMMM
UP FRONT IN FIRST CLASS! ANY COM-PLAINTS?
AIEE!
P-OP
*FX: GYAAAAAA!


FX WYRRRNNN


HEE, HEE, HEE... YOU LIKE 'EM?
NOT AS GOOD AS YOUR LEGS!

THAT COLOR LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!


SAY... WHY DON'T WE TAKE IN THAT SPECIAL EXPO ON OUR NEXT DAY OFF?
NO WAY! I DON'T NEED TO SEE ANY MORE SYMBOLS OF MEGALO-MANIA AND POWER TRIPPING!

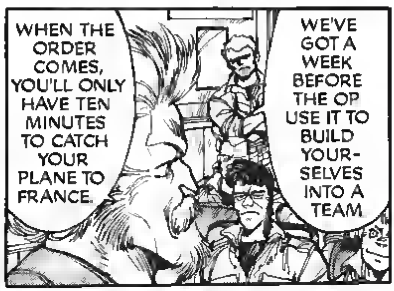

YOU FIGURE EVERY-ONE'S THERE AL-READY?
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO TO OPS ROOM FIVE IN BLOCK TWELVE.
K!!! K!!!
TIK TIK
ESWAT
Kommando gegen Terrorismus
ESWAT POLICE
ESWAT
NICE SMELL, DARLIN', BUT IT COULD GET YOU KILLED.
ESWAT POLICE
ESWAT
FX. VMMMMM
WELL THAT'S JUST TOO BAD

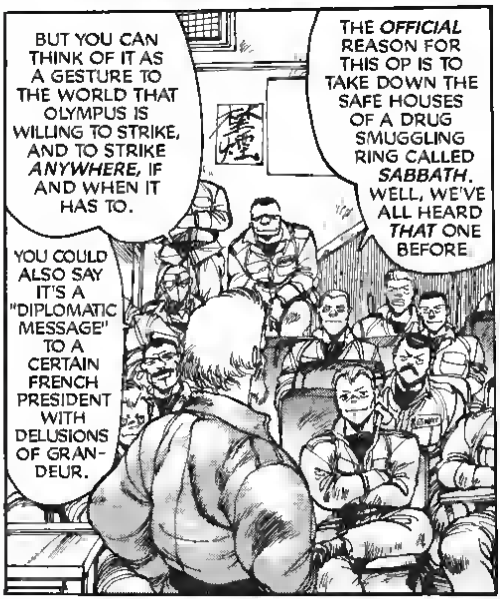
NO WAY! I RECOGNIZE THAT TONE! BEG AND PLEAD IF YOU WANT, BUT YOU'RE NOT SITTING ON MY LAP!
OH, NO! IT'S A TRAGEDY! NO CHAIRS I CAN SIT ON! AIEE! DOOMED TO THE FLOOR OR COLD FLAGSTONES!
MP
"BUSINESS PARTNER?..." WELL, MAYBE.
YO, THERE, BUSINESS PARTNER.
DAMMIT!
OLYMPUS POLICE
STRANGE NAME, HUH? BUT I'M NOT A GUY, YOU KNOW.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU TWO. MY NAME'S DORIC.
FX: TUNK
SO YOU SAY YOU'RE HALF GERMAN AND HALF CHINESE, HMM? I'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR HOMELANDS SOMETIME.
DAMN STRAIGHT
SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST GET SOME R&R?
YOU'RE AN INTERESTING GIRL .. NOT VERY SWEET, THOUGH.
AND THAT'S "IONIA" BEHIND ME.
"DORIC," IS IT? MAYBE I SHOULD CALL MYSELF "CORINTH" OR SOMETHING?
CUT IT OUT, DEUNAN!
OLYMPUS POLICE

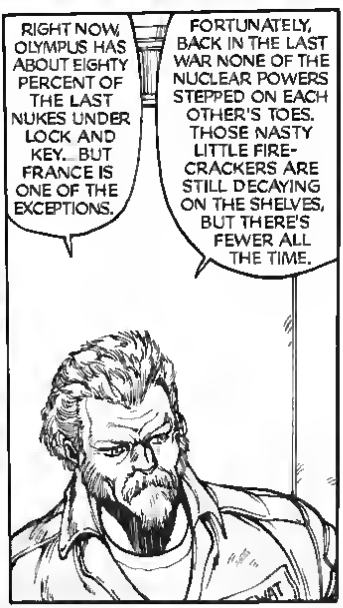
*The ancient Romans often applied the Greek architectural terms **Doric, Corinthian,** and **Ionic** to people. In order, they represented strong and masculine character, girlish and sweet, and finally elegant and intellectual.

OKAY! LET'S GET STARTED!
SO WHY THE ASIAN ACCENT?
ACTUALLY, MY NATIONALITY'S OLD AMERICAN.
I DON'T LIKE COMMIES, SO AFTER THE TAITO SUMMIT I WAS...
OH, YEAHTEAH
WHO'S THIS GUY? WEIRD FACE
FX: TAK TAK TAK TAK
TSK!
REALLY? IT CAN WAIT UNTIL WE'RE DONE HERE.
SAY... YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING STUCK TO YOUR NECK!
YOU THINK SCUM LIKE YOU ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THAT, EH?!
OH, NO! NOT AN IRREGULAR POLICE ACTION, SIR?!
AS IF I EVEN NEEDED TO SAY IT, THIS IS ALL TOP SECRET.
RIGHT!
ESWAT

BUT UNDER MY ORGANIZATION, USING MY TACTICS, YOU CAN PULL OFF ANY OPERATION IN THE WORLD!
LANCE!
INDIVIDUALLY, YOU'RE USELESS--JUST A BUNCH OF LOUSY COPS.
I'M THE ONE WHO PICKED YOU SORRY LOT OF JACKASSES OUT OF ALL THE SQUADS IN ESWAT.
FX TAK TAK TAK TAK


WHEN THE ORDER COMES, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE TEN MINUTES TO CATCH YOUR PLANE TO FRANCE.
WE'VE GOT A WEEK BEFORE THE OP USE IT TO BUILD YOURSELVES INTO A TEAM

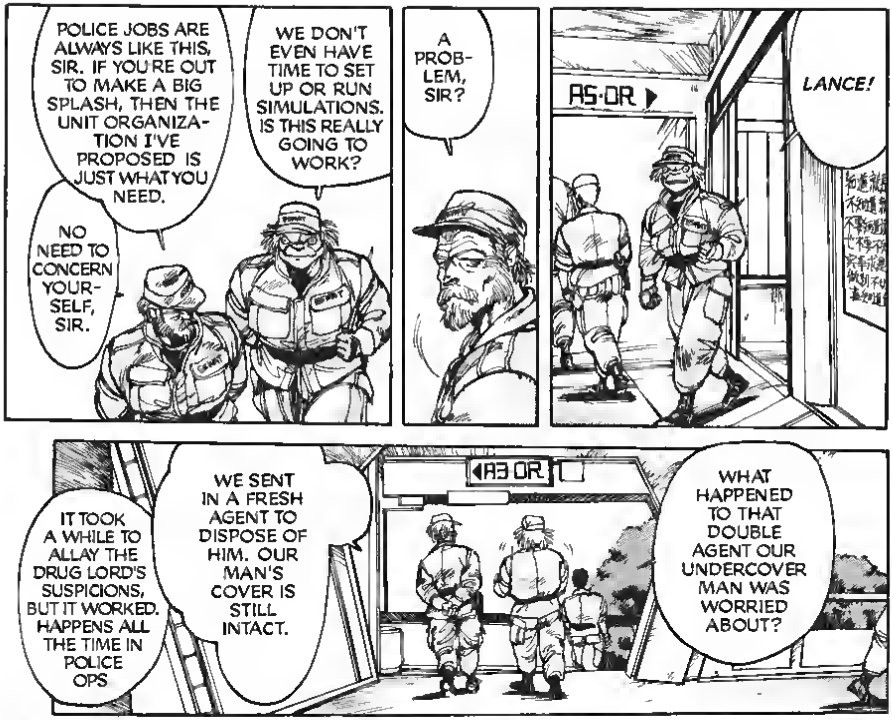

BUT YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A GESTURE TO THE WORLD THAT OLYMPUS IS WILLING TO STRIKE, AND TO STRIKE *ANYWHERE*, IF AND WHEN IT HAS TO.
YOU COULD ALSO SAY IT'S A "DIPLOMATIC MESSAGE" TO A CERTAIN FRENCH PRESIDENT WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.
THE *OFFICIAL* REASON FOR THIS OP IS TO TAKE DOWN THE SAFE HOUSES OF A DRUG SMUGGLING RING CALLED *SABBATH*. WELL, WE'VE ALL HEARD *THAT* ONE BEFORE


RIGHT NOW, OLYMPUS HAS ABOUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE LAST NUKES UNDER LOCK AND KEY...BUT FRANCE IS ONE OF THE EXCEPTIONS.
FORTUNATELY, BACK IN THE LAST WAR NONE OF THE NUCLEAR POWERS STEPPED ON EACH OTHER'S TOES. THOSE NASTY LITTLE FIRECRACKERS ARE STILL DECAYING ON THE SHELVES, BUT THERE'S FEWER ALL THE TIME.

*Sabbath the day of rest in Judaism (from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday) That's not what it means here

NO GUGES LAND-MATES THIS TIME-- WE'LL BE USING ORCS.
HERE ARE YOUR TEAM LISTS. I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR TACTICAL DIRECTIVES AFTER OUR UNDER-COVER AGENTS REPORT IN.
EH? YOU WERE IN ON THAT OP? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE THAI ECONO-MY--?
DRUGS, HUH? THAT'S ONE THING YOU CAN'T GET RID OF EVEN IF YOU BURN DOWN ALL THE POPPY FIELDS IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE!
THAT'S BRI.
DIS-MISSED!
FYI, THE NAME OF THIS OPS IS BENANDANTI.*
KEEP SMILE
TRAINING STARTS AT 0500-- DON'T SLEEP IN!
FOOD! FOOD!
YOU HUNGRY?
ISN'T FRANCE STILL SELLING WEAPONS TO THE IRAQIS?
FX TUNK GTAK
FX GTAK
JUST AS LONG AS THEY'RE ONLY AS REAL AS THE USUAL "EVIL SPIRIT," EH?
SO WHAT'S WITH THE NAME OF THIS OP? WE SUPPOSED TO BATTLE EVIL SPIRITS OR SOME-THING?
FX TAK

*Taken from an ancient Eastern European legend. The name of those whose spirits set forth at the turn of the season to battle those who walk the path of evil. There is a bumper harvest when the benendenti win, and famine if they lose.


POLICE JOBS ARE ALWAYS LIKE THIS, SIR. IF YOU'RE OUT TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH, THEN THE UNIT ORGANIZATION I'VE PROPOSED IS JUST WHAT YOU NEED.
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO SET UP OR RUN SIMULATIONS. IS THIS REALLY GOING TO WORK?
NO NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF, SIR.
A PROBLEM, SIR?
LANCE!
IT TOOK A WHILE TO ALLAY THE DRUG LORD'S SUSPICIONS, BUT IT WORKED. HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN POLICE OPS
WE SENT IN A FRESH AGENT TO DISPOSE OF HIM. OUR MAN'S COVER IS STILL INTACT.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT DOUBLE AGENT OUR UNDERCOVER MAN WAS WORRIED ABOUT?
Tebé skúcno bez Mena?
I'M STARVING!
Kto eto?
No very human person he could be...

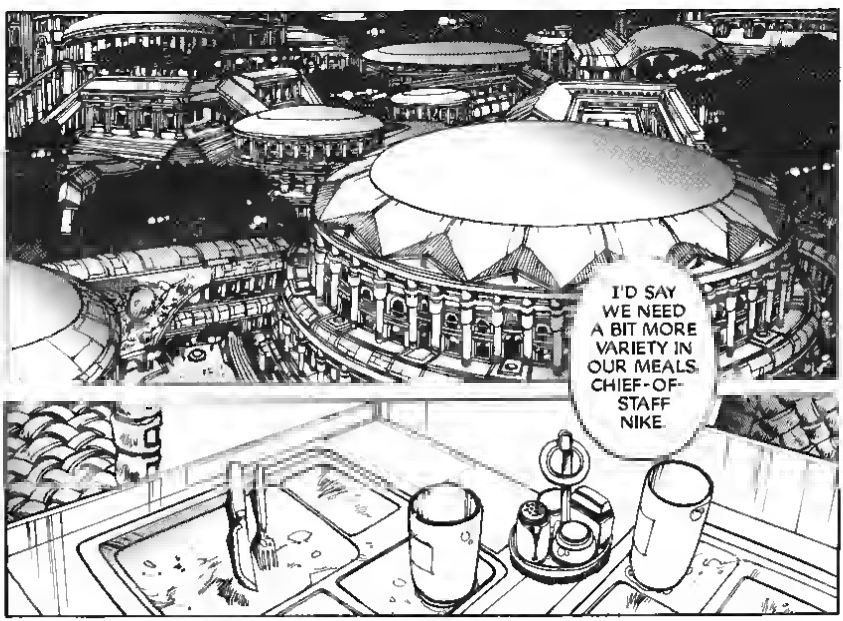
*FX. GOOOONNNG
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. OH, WELL-- IF YOU OVEREAT AND BARF IN TRAINING, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
SHE'LL TURN INTO A PIG! WELL MAYBE A LITTLE ROUNDER IS BETTER...
HEH, HEH, HEH!
どーーーん!
AW, C'MON... ALL WE'RE GOING TO DO IS WORK OUT TIMING.
MMM... THIS IS DELICIOUS. I WAS STARVING!
I'VE GOT A PRO-POSAL.
COULDN'T YOU TRY TO MAKE LUNCH A LITTLE MORE OF A SOCIAL EVENT?
SURE, SURE... GREAT IDEA.
UNKNOWN INFECTIOUS DISEASE SWEEPING IRAQ. MAJOR FLOODING IN THAILAND, HEAVY ACID RAINFALLS FROM BEIJING TO TOKYO.
BACK TO THE CIVIL WAR I GUESS
HMMM... CUBA'S ALLIED THEM-SELVES WITH THE FEDERATES U.S.S.R. AGAIN. THEIR NAVY'S GONE AND SHELLED THE IMPERIAL AMERICANA CAPITAL IN AUSTIN, TEXAS.
NEWS OLYMPOST
Ultimamente llueve demasiado
Tailandia.
TUCKIN· TUCKI
別急啊
Este melón es tan grande como ese.

Was haben Sie?
Tenemos que actuar Secretamente
IT SEEMS YOU'RE MY BACKUP, MS. KNUTE-- I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
A TOAST TO THE TEAM! SKOAL!
SO... WE'RE TEAM-MATES AFTER ALL.
EX. KTAN
HEY!
HEH!
ALL THE BACK-GROUND BABBLE HERE SOUNDS LIKE SOME KIND OF RELIGIOUS CHANT
"THE ARACHNE GAMBIT"...
FIRST THE ARACHNE GAMBIT, NOW THIS OPERA-TION...DON'T YOU THINK GENERAL ADMINISTRA-TOR ATHENA IS COMING ON A BIT STRONG?
AFTER ALL, IT WAS OLYMPUS THAT HELPED POLYNESIA AND NEW CALEDONIA WIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM FRANCE.
DON'T EXPECT A WEL-COMING PARTY.
I WONDER WHAT THE AIR SMELLS LIKE IN EUROPE? I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS ONE.
Was haben Sie?
OH, REALLY?
WE WERE A LONG TIME OUT IN BADSIDE, SO...
No tengo hambre porque ya he comido
FIRST I EVER HEARD OF IT.
PALLAS ATHENA MUST BE ROLLING OVER IN HER GRAVE!
ATHENA DIDN'T LIKE ONE OF THE "APPLICATIONS" POSEIDON CAME UP WITH FOR THEIR NEW SPECIAL CARBON FIBER, SO NOT ONLY DID SHE ORDER AN EXPORT BAN, BUT SHE HAS THEM LOOKING DOWN THE BARREL OF A SPIDER GUN PLATFORM.* THAT GAMBIT.

*More about this later

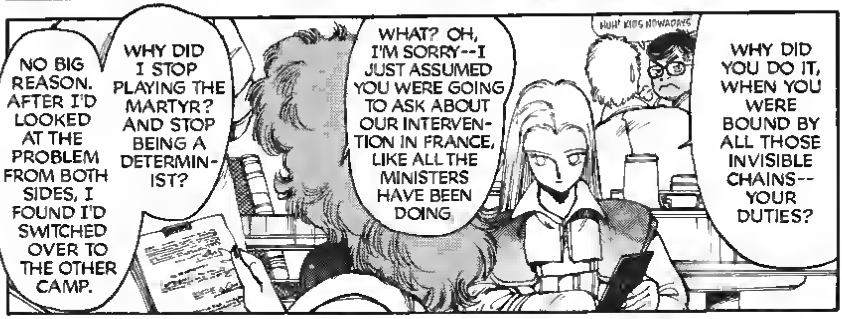
U.S. AFRICA FEVERISHLY PUSHES FORESTATION POLICIES WITH THE HELP OF AID FROM OLYMPUS. THEY'RE AN OUTGROWTH OF THE OLD *OAU**. ISRAEL CONTINUES TO DECLINE DESPITE THE AID POURED INTO IT BY IMPERIAL AMERICANA. THE *ISLAMIC FEDERATION,* AGE-OLD DREAM OF THE P.L.O., GATHERS STRENGTH...ETCETERA, ETCETERA.
SOUNDS COMPLICATED!
THEN THERE'S THE MYSTERIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGAN, *OLYMPUS.*
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO THE NEW BOYS ON THE BLOCK ARE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, FIRST THERE'S THAT *POSEIDON I* WAS MENTIONING--NEW JAPAN, INCLUDING THE "JAPAN TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER," OCEAN CITY. OF COURSE, IT'S NOT REALLY A COUNTRY ANYMORE, JUST A GIANT CORPORATE CONGLOMERATE.
ESWAT

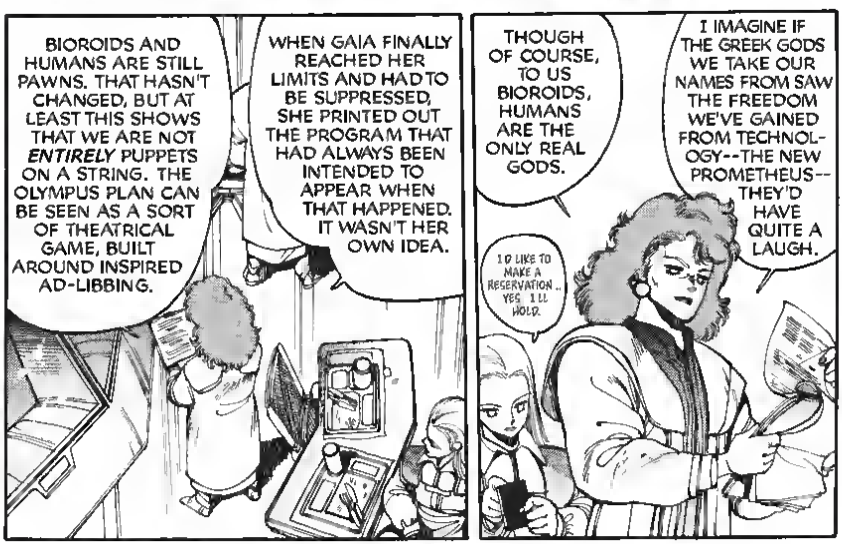
Note: Perhaps "Poseidon" is a corruption of the Japanese for "made in Japan"—Nippon seihin.

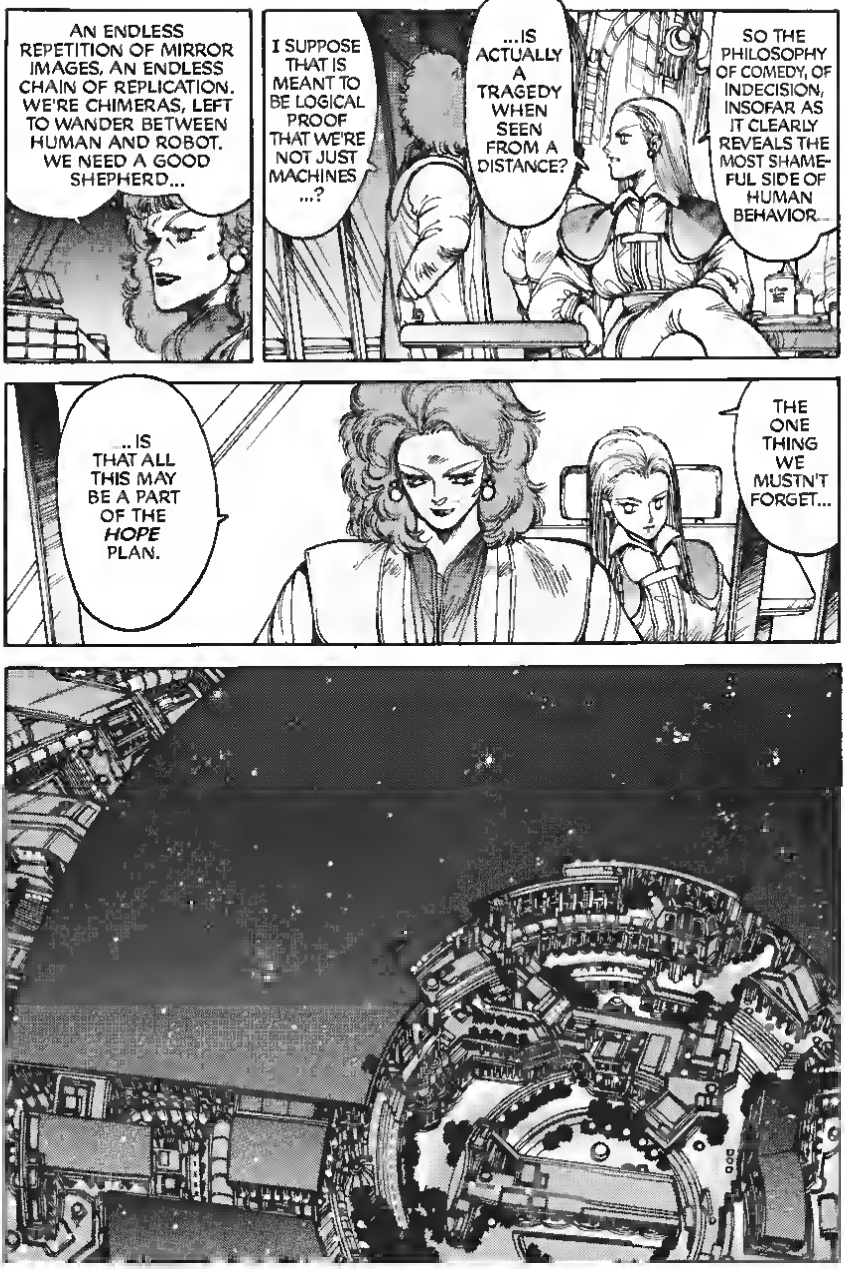


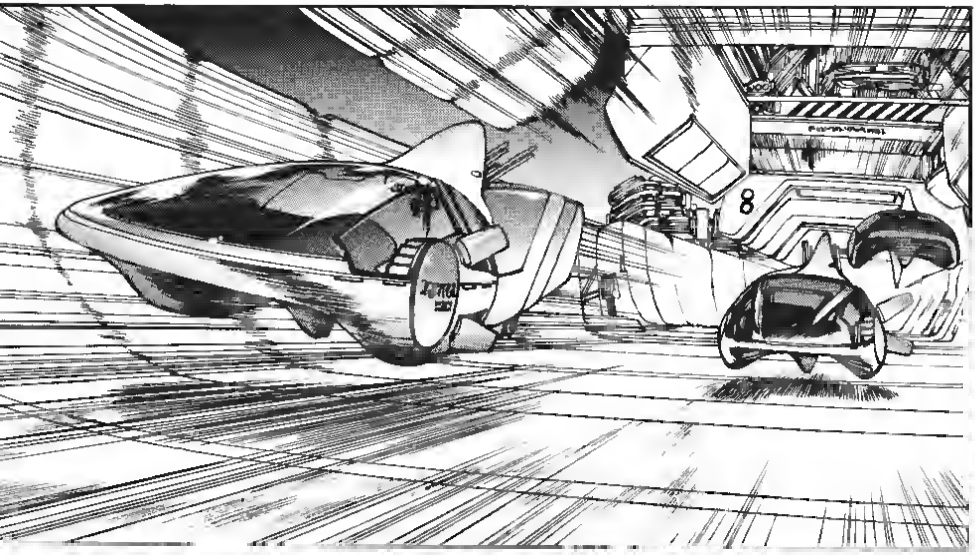
*Organization for African Unity, headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

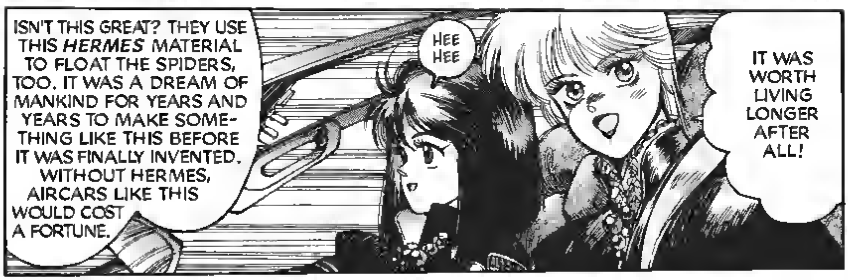
I HAVE A QUESTION, MAY I...?
ATHENA...
THAT SOUNDS QUITE DELIGHTFUL. I KNOW THE PERFECT PLACE, NOT MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES FROM HERE. I'LL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS RIGHT AWAY.
JUST NOW AND THEN, ANYWAY. WHAT DO YOU THINK? WANT TO TRY OUT A NICE LITTLE THREE-STAR ITALIAN RESTAURANT FOR LUNCH NEXT SATURDAY?


NO BIG REASON. AFTER I'D LOOKED AT THE PROBLEM FROM BOTH SIDES, I FOUND I'D SWITCHED OVER TO THE OTHER CAMP.
WHY DID I STOP PLAYING THE MARTYR? AND STOP BEING A DETERMINIST?
WHAT? OH, I'M SORRY--I JUST ASSUMED YOU WERE GOING TO ASK ABOUT OUR INTERVENTION IN FRANCE, LIKE ALL THE MINISTERS HAVE BEEN DOING.
WHY DID YOU DO IT, WHEN YOU WERE BOUND BY ALL THOSE INVISIBLE CHAINS--YOUR DUTIES?


BIOROIDS AND HUMANS ARE STILL PAWNS. THAT HASN'T CHANGED, BUT AT LEAST THIS SHOWS THAT WE ARE NOT ***ENTIRELY*** PUPPETS ON A STRING. THE OLYMPUS PLAN CAN BE SEEN AS A SORT OF THEATRICAL GAME, BUILT AROUND INSPIRED AD-LIBBING.
WHEN GAIA FINALLY REACHED HER LIMITS AND HAD TO BE SUPPRESSED, SHE PRINTED OUT THE PROGRAM THAT HAD ALWAYS BEEN INTENDED TO APPEAR WHEN THAT HAPPENED. IT WASN'T HER OWN IDEA.
THOUGH OF COURSE, TO US BIOROIDS, HUMANS ARE THE ONLY REAL GODS.
I IMAGINE IF THE GREEK GODS WE TAKE OUR NAMES FROM SAW THE FREEDOM WE'VE GAINED FROM TECHNOLOGY--THE NEW PROMETHEUS--THEY'D HAVE QUITE A LAUGH.
I'D LIKE TO MAKE A RESERVATION... YES. I'LL HOLD.

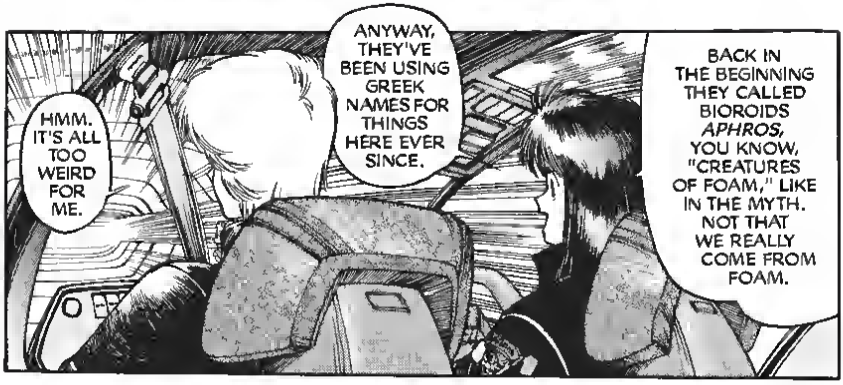

AN ENDLESS REPETITION OF MIRROR IMAGES. AN ENDLESS CHAIN OF REPLICATION. WE'RE CHIMERAS, LEFT TO WANDER BETWEEN HUMAN AND ROBOT. WE NEED A GOOD SHEPHERD...
I SUPPOSE THAT IS MEANT TO BE LOGICAL PROOF THAT WE'RE NOT JUST MACHINES ...?
...IS ACTUALLY A TRAGEDY WHEN SEEN FROM A DISTANCE?
SO THE PHILOSOPHY OF COMEDY, OF INDECISION, INSOFAR AS IT CLEARLY REVEALS THE MOST SHAMEFUL SIDE OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR...
...IS THAT ALL THIS MAY BE A PART OF THE *HOPE* PLAN.
THE ONE THING WE MUSTN'T FORGET...

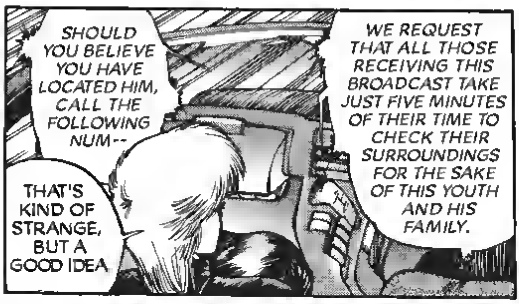


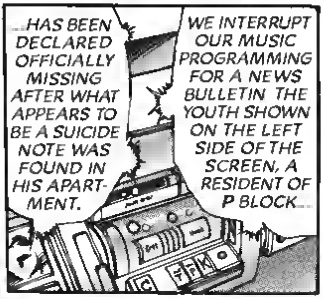

ISN'T THIS GREAT? THEY USE THIS *HERMES* MATERIAL TO FLOAT THE SPIDERS, TOO. IT WAS A DREAM OF MANKIND FOR YEARS AND YEARS TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE IT WAS FINALLY INVENTED. WITHOUT HERMES, AIRCARS LIKE THIS WOULD COST A FORTUNE.
HEE HEE
IT WAS WORTH LIVING LONGER AFTER ALL!

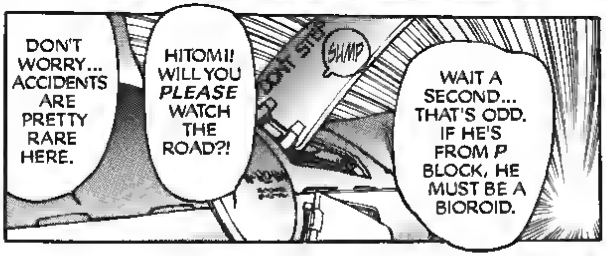
YOU'RE SUCH A SCHOLAR, DEUNAN!
WELL, I'VE BEEN HEARING NAMES LIKE THAT EVER SINCE I GOT HERE, SO I'VE BEEN STUDYING A BIT.
WASN'T HERMES THE NAME OF THE GOD WHO WAS SUCH A FAST RUNNER? YOU KNOW, FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY?

THEY SAY THEY CAN USE IT TO LINK HOSPITALS--ALMOST INSTANT TRANSPORTATION OF TRANSPLANT ORGANS! OR TO MOVE SUPER-HEAVY LOADS, EVEN IF THEY CAN'T GET THEM COMPLETELY OFF THE GROUND.

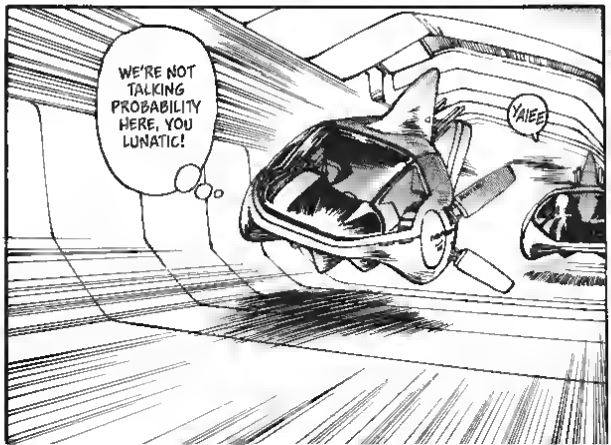

HMM. IT'S ALL TOO WEIRD FOR ME.
ANYWAY, THEY'VE BEEN USING GREEK NAMES FOR THINGS HERE EVER SINCE.
BACK IN THE BEGINNING THEY CALLED BIOROIDS *APHROS*, YOU KNOW, "CREATURES OF FOAM," LIKE IN THE MYTH. NOT THAT WE REALLY COME FROM FOAM.


THAT'S KIND OF STRANGE, BUT A GOOD IDEA
SHOULD YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE LOCATED HIM, CALL THE FOLLOWING NUM--
WE REQUEST THAT ALL THOSE RECEIVING THIS BROADCAST TAKE JUST FIVE MINUTES OF THEIR TIME TO CHECK THEIR SURROUNDINGS FOR THE SAKE OF THIS YOUTH AND HIS FAMILY.


...HAS BEEN DECLARED OFFICIALLY MISSING AFTER WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SUICIDE NOTE WAS FOUND IN HIS APARTMENT.
WE INTERRUPT OUR MUSIC PROGRAMMING FOR A NEWS BULLETIN THE YOUTH SHOWN ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE SCREEN, A RESIDENT OF P BLOCK...


DON'T WORRY... ACCIDENTS ARE PRETTY RARE HERE.
HITOMI! WILL YOU *PLEASE* WATCH THE ROAD?!
DON'T STEP
SLUMP
WAIT A SECOND... THAT'S ODD. IF HE'S FROM *P* BLOCK, HE MUST BE A BIOROID.

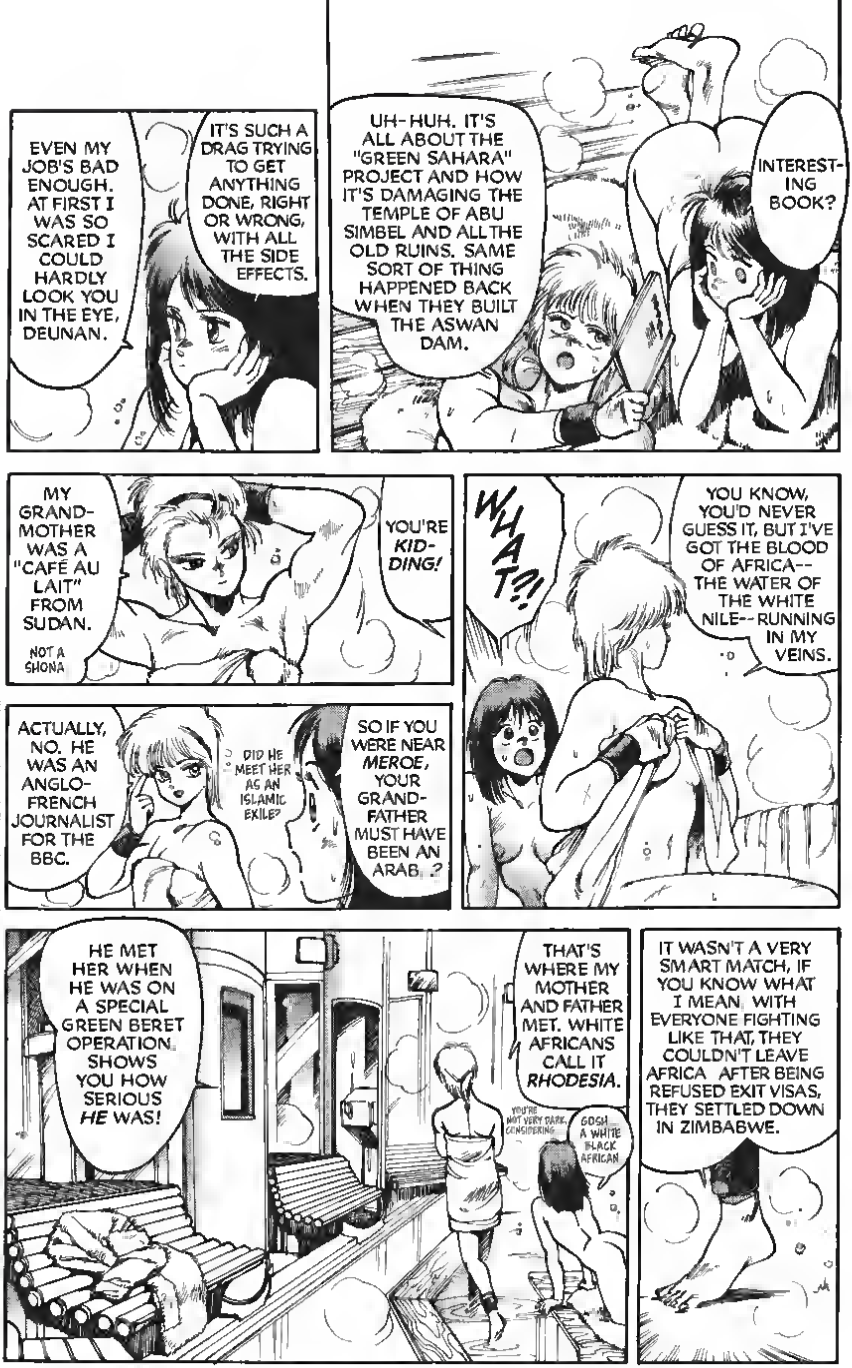
WHEN THERE'S STILL SO MUCH TO EXPERIENCE...
GEE... A SUICIDE, HUH?


WE'RE NOT TALKING PROBABILITY HERE, YOU LUNATIC!
YAIEE

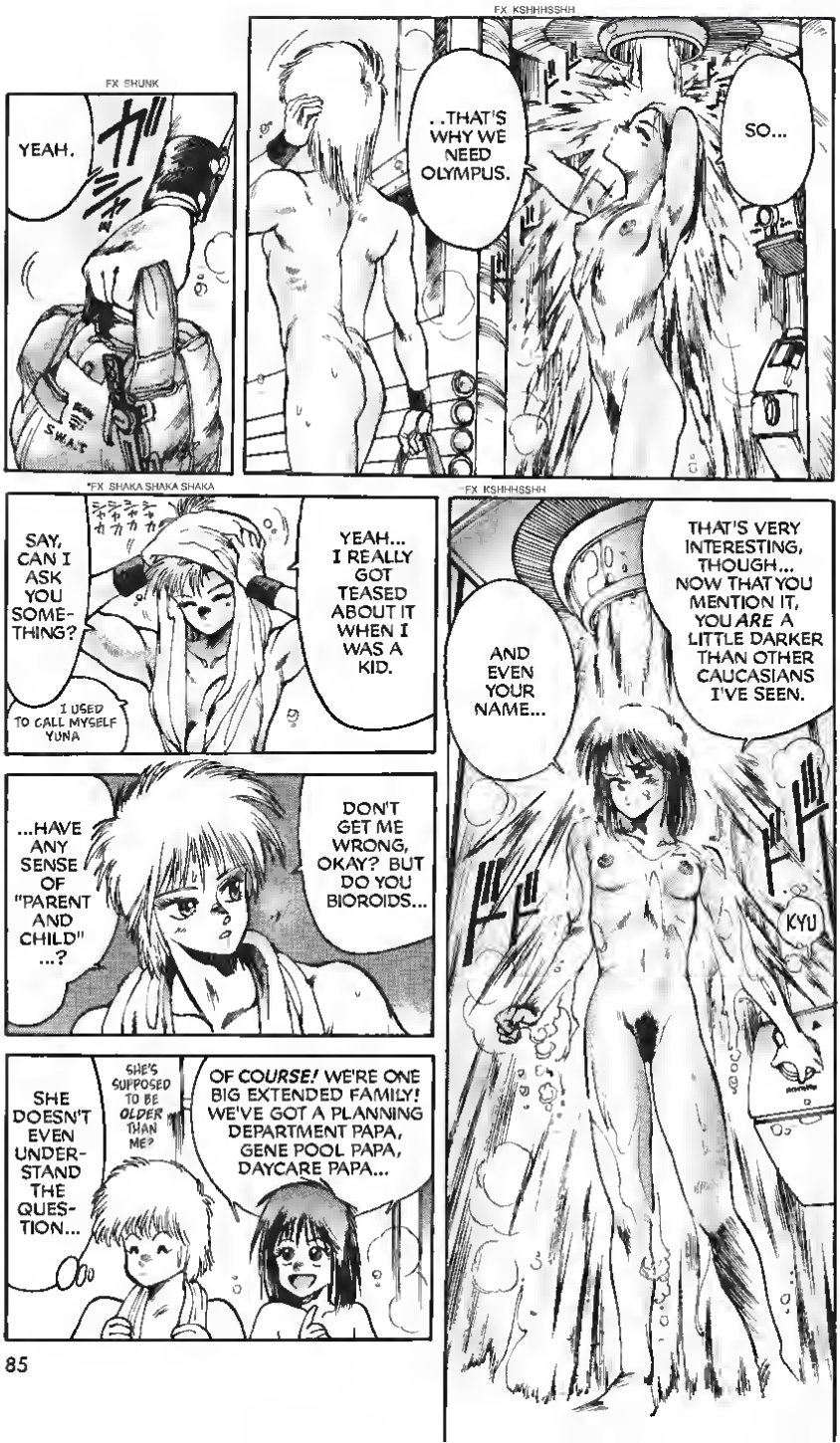
*FX. HYUOOOO
...WHY DID YOU CALL ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO GO TO A SAUNA?
BEEP BEEP
SAY, DEUNAN, I KNOW THAT DAY AND NIGHT DON'T REALLY MATTER MUCH IN OLYMPUS, BUT...
*FX. BEEEEP
OH, HO, HO! YOU NAUGHTY GIRL! SO YOU DON'T HAVE AGS SYNDROME* AFTER ALL, HMMM?
BESIDES, I HAVE TO GET ALL CLEANED UP AND READY.
?
I JUST WANTED TO UNLOAD SOME-THING.
AND JUST WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO WITH ME?!
OWW OWW!
GOOD THING I DIDN'T MENTION HIPPOPOTAMI.
THE OLD GUYS ON THE COUNCIL SAID YOU'RE LIKE A KARI, DEUNAN. BUT WHEN I SEE YOU LAUGH LIKE THAT...
"KARI" ...?
"AGS"...?
LIKE WOLVES, BIG CATS, HUMANS...TAKE AFRICAN CAPE BUFFALO--THEY'RE DOCILE COWARDS WHEN THEY'RE IN A HERD, BUT EXTREMELY DANGEROUS WHEN ON THEIR OWN.
IT'S SWAHILI FOR A DANGEROUS ANIMAL WITH AN UNPREDICT-ABLE TEMPER-MENT.

*Masculinization in a woman brought on by excessive male hormones.

YOU LOOK ABSO-LUTELY EX-HAUSTED!
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE EFFORT-LESS HEROINE.
IT'S BETTER NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT ISN'T ON YOUR PATIENT CHART.
I'M JUST GETTING A LIGHT TREAT-MENT, ANYWAY!
:YAWN:
HEY! YOU SKIPPING WORK AGAIN? MUST BE NICE!
HI, HITOMI DEAR. THIS ISN'T YOUR PRO-GRAMMED DAY, IS IT?


EVEN MY JOB'S BAD ENOUGH. AT FIRST I WAS SO SCARED I COULD HARDLY LOOK YOU IN THE EYE, DEUNAN.
IT'S SUCH A DRAG TRYING TO GET ANYTHING DONE, RIGHT OR WRONG, WITH ALL THE SIDE EFFECTS.
UH-HUH. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE "GREEN SAHARA" PROJECT AND HOW IT'S DAMAGING THE TEMPLE OF ABU SIMBEL AND ALL THE OLD RUINS. SAME SORT OF THING HAPPENED BACK WHEN THEY BUILT THE ASWAN DAM.
INTERESTING BOOK?
MY GRANDMOTHER WAS A "CAFÉ AU LAIT" FROM SUDAN.
NOT A SHONA
YOU'RE KIDDING!
WHAT?!
YOU KNOW, YOU'D NEVER GUESS IT, BUT I'VE GOT THE BLOOD OF AFRICA-- THE WATER OF THE WHITE NILE-- RUNNING IN MY VEINS.
ACTUALLY, NO. HE WAS AN ANGLO-FRENCH JOURNALIST FOR THE BBC.
DID HE MEET HER AS AN ISLAMIC EXILE?
SO IF YOU WERE NEAR MEROE, YOUR GRANDFATHER MUST HAVE BEEN AN ARAB...?
(He was trying to infiltrate Anyena III)
HE MET HER WHEN HE WAS ON A SPECIAL GREEN BERET OPERATION. SHOWS YOU HOW SERIOUS HE WAS!
THAT'S WHERE MY MOTHER AND FATHER MET. WHITE AFRICANS CALL IT RHODESIA.
YOU'RE NOT VERY DARK, CONSIDERING...
GOSH! A WHITE BLACK AFRICAN!
IT WASN'T A VERY SMART MATCH, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. WITH EVERYONE FIGHTING LIKE THAT, THEY COULDN'T LEAVE AFRICA. AFTER BEING REFUSED EXIT VISAS, THEY SETTLED DOWN IN ZIMBABWE.

FX. KSHHHSSHH
SOME BLACK SUPREMACISTS ACCUSED HER OF TRYING TO ACT LIKE A "WHITEY" BECAUSE SHE HAD PALE SKIN. THEY USED A SHOTGUN ON HER..."HEY, KAFFIR!"
KYU KYU
*KSHHHSSHH
*FX. FMP
WHEN I WAS TEN, MY MOTHER VISITED FRISCO.
BUT THANKS TO MY DUMB DAD, I WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE THE WAR AND MEET BRIAREOS.
(The city of hills San Francisco)
R.I.P...
IT SAID CRIME WAS INEXTRICABLY LINKED WITH SOCIETY, IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPRESS COMPLETELY.
HEH...
IT REMINDS ME OF AN OLD FBI REPORT I READ...
...I'VE FORGOTTEN A LOT OF THINGS. MAYBE LAUGHED A BIT TOO MUCH.
SINCE I'VE COME TO THIS CITY...

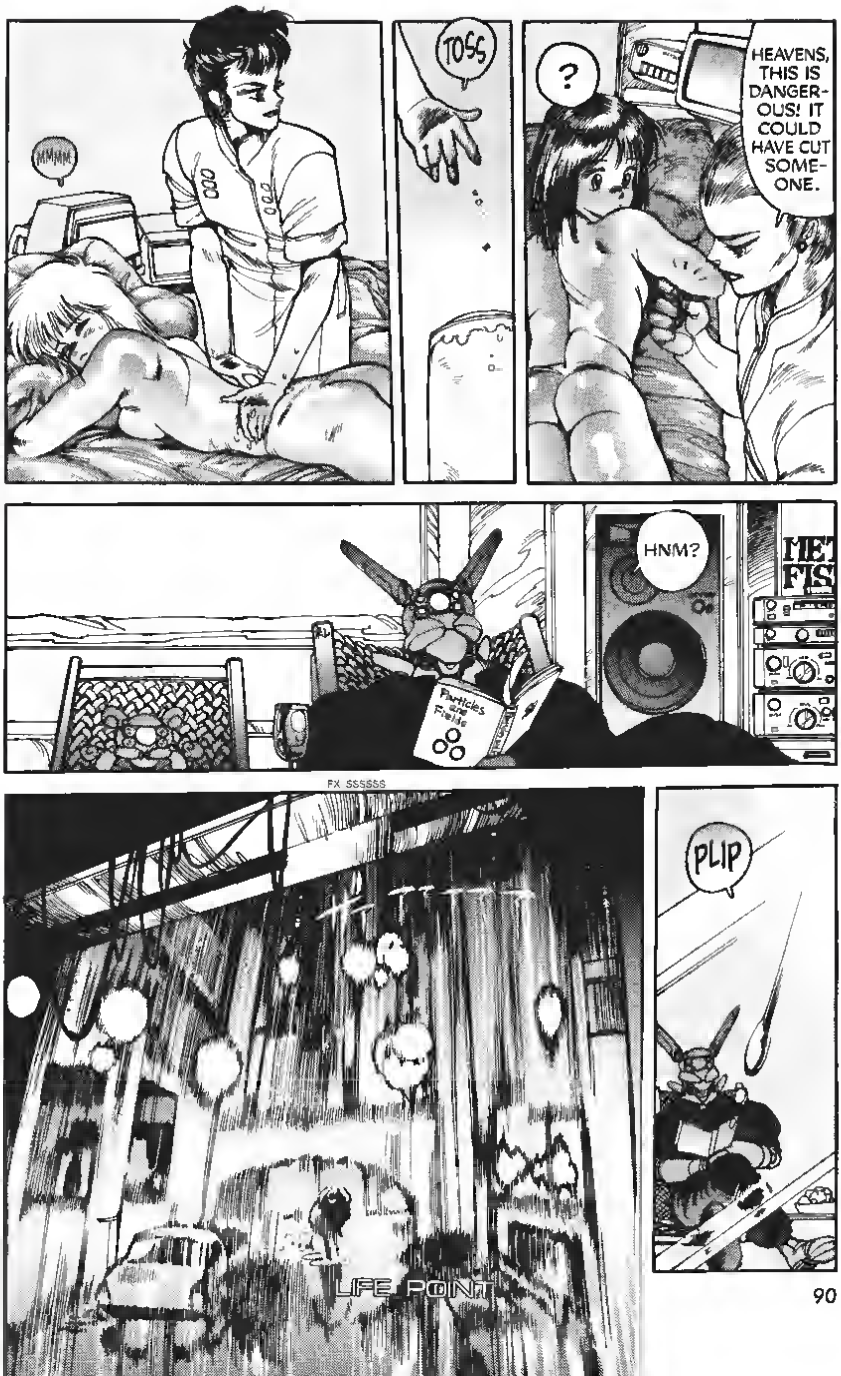

FX SHUNK
YEAH.
SWAT
FX KSHHHSSHH
SO...
...THAT'S WHY WE NEED OLYMPUS.
*FX SHAKA SHAKA SHAKA
SAY, CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
I USED TO CALL MYSELF YUNA
YEAH... I REALLY GOT TEASED ABOUT IT WHEN I WAS A KID.
...HAVE ANY SENSE OF "PARENT AND CHILD" ...?
DON'T GET ME WRONG, OKAY? BUT DO YOU BIOROIDS...
SHE DOESN'T EVEN UNDER-STAND THE QUES-TION...
SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE OLDER THAN ME?
OF COURSE! WE'RE ONE BIG EXTENDED FAMILY! WE'VE GOT A PLANNING DEPARTMENT PAPA, GENE POOL PAPA, DAYCARE PAPA...
*FX KSHHHSSHH
AND EVEN YOUR NAME...
THAT'S VERY INTERESTING, THOUGH... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU ARE A LITTLE DARKER THAN OTHER CAUCASIANS I'VE SEEN.
KYU

FX KONK
TO BRIAREOS, OF COURSE.
OOF!
TAHITIAN, ACTUALLY. IT MEANS "WHEN ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?"
NOT AGAIN! WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? THAI? MALAY-SIAN?
Nofea soa ipoipo?
REALLY? I THOUGHT ALL YOU ORIGINALS DID STUFF LIKE THAT WHEN YOU ENTER INTO PERMANENT INTERPER-SONAL RELATION-SHIPS, DON'T YOU?
HE'S NINE YEARS OLDER THAN ME
ANYWAY, I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT AHEAD THAT FAR...
DON'T ASK ME THINGS LIKE THAT! IT'S A PAIN IN THE ..ER, HEAD.
AS HAS BEEN SAID, "IF THE INSECTS EAT THE SPRING BUDS, THEY DIE EVER GREEN."
WHY NOT?
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS!
I MEAN, IF NOT, I COULD INTRO-DUCE YOU TO SOME REALLY CUTE GUYS!

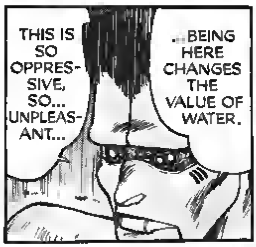
BUT THEN YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF MARRIAGE. I DON'T GET IT.
DOESN'T YOUR AFRICAN BLOOD MAKE A VIRTUE OF LARGE FAMILIES?
SO HE'S THE ONE WITH THE KEY, HMMM?
IT'S NOT THAT, BUT "VERILY, I HATH FIRMLY LOCKED AWAY THIS HEART." I COULDN'T HANDLE TWO MEN.
BESIDES, I'M PICKY ABOUT WHO I ASSOCIATE WITH...
LIKE THE ELECTRON CLOSEST TO THE NUCLEUS.
BEEP BEEP
LET YOU "BE EATEN OF FLEAS AND MOSQUITOES"...? IT'S NOT AS IF YOU'RE SOME TRAGIC ACTRESS, YOU KNOW. ARE YOU RELIGIOUS OR SOMETHING?
IT'S LIKE A FURNACE IN HERE!
HI, THERE!
FX WSSSHHH
OH, GREAT! BUT DID YOU FACTOR IN MY NEW BIORHYTHM VARIABLES?
AM I A QUARK?
I'VE FINALLY WORKED OUT YOUR CONSTELLATION OF COLORS AND FRAGRANCES.
I MISSED A LIFE EXTENSION TREATMENT. THEY'VE RE-ADJUSTED IT.
*FX SHUUUU
ANOTHER CHANGE IN YOUR PATIENT CHART?

YES, MA'AM.
YOSHINO, WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS OTHER LADY?
WHAT DID YOU THINK IT WAS?
I WONDERED WHAT THE DEVIL WAS GOING ON... A MASSAGE, HMM?
FX TAKKA TAKKA
YES, I AM.
BEEP
ARE YOU...?
YOU'RE THE NEW... HUMAN, AREN'T YOU?
FX BEEP BEEP BEEP
IF A BUNCH OF US DIE SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD, WE CAN ALL FEEL IT. THAT SHOULD COME IN REAL HANDY IN THE SPACE AGE.
SO WE CAN PICK OUT OUR OWN KIND, LIKE TWINS... OR CLONES.
WE BIOROIDS ARE ALL CONSTRUCTED FROM THE SAME GENE POOL. WE'RE ALL COMRADES, WITH THE SAME GENETIC STRUCTURE.
HITOMI, HOW COULD YOU TELL? WHAT GIVES US AWAY?
MY GOOD NESS YOUR SKIN IS IN TERRIBLE CONDITION.
IN ONE SENSE, THOUGH, IT CAN BE DANGEROUS.
THE VULCAN GUY ON THAT OLD SF VID-PROGRAM "STAR TREK"-- DIDN'T HE HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT? PRETTY USEFUL, I GUESS.

WHEN COMPUTERS FIRST STARTED GETTING POPULAR, THEY ELIMINATED THE DISTANCE BARRIERS BETWEEN TOKYO, CHICAGO, PLACES LIKE THAT. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THEY CREATED A NEW BARRIER BETWEEN COMPUTER LITERATES AND ILLITERATES. IT'D BE BAD IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED AGAIN.
CON-SENSUS IN A CLOSED WORLD.
WHAT CAN?
MAYBE IT'S TO PRESERVE A DEGREE OF LEEWAY IN THE GENE POOL? A WAY TO AVOID STASIS WITHOUT DISRUPTING ORDER. A WAY TO PREVENT THE AGING AND DEATH OF OLYMPUS ITSELF..
JARGONISM, YOU MEAN? YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES I THINK THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE PEOPLE-GATHERING OLYMPUS HAS BEEN DOING.
A CLOSED RACE IS THE KEY TO SILENT CONSENSUS--THE ONLY WAY TO CREATE A CULTURE OF AGREEMENT, OUTSTANDING TECHNOLOGY, AND ALMOST ABNORMAL PEACE. OF COURSE WE DON'T WANT IT TO BE TOO CLOSE, BUT...
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, STUFF LIKE THAT.
WE'RE BEING MORE CAREFUL THAN THE GREEKS WERE, OR EVEN THE JAPANESE. IT SHOULD BE OKAY, SO LONG AS THERE'S SOME KIND OF CYCLE AT A HIGHER LEVEL.
THEN WHAT HAPPENS IF THE WHOLE WORLD GOES INTO STASIS?

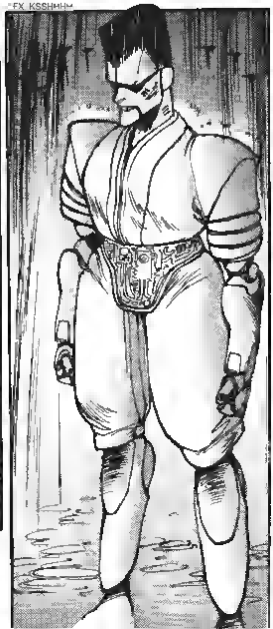

HMMM
TOSS
?
HEAVENS, THIS IS DANGER-OUS! IT COULD HAVE CUT SOME-ONE.
HNM?
Particles are Reals
FX SSSSSS
PLIP
LIFE POINT

FX KSSHHHH


THIS IS SO OPPRESSIVE, SO... UNPLEASANT...
...BEING HERE CHANGES THE VALUE OF WATER.

DOCTOR SLADE...

BEEP BEEP BEEP


FX KSSHHHH

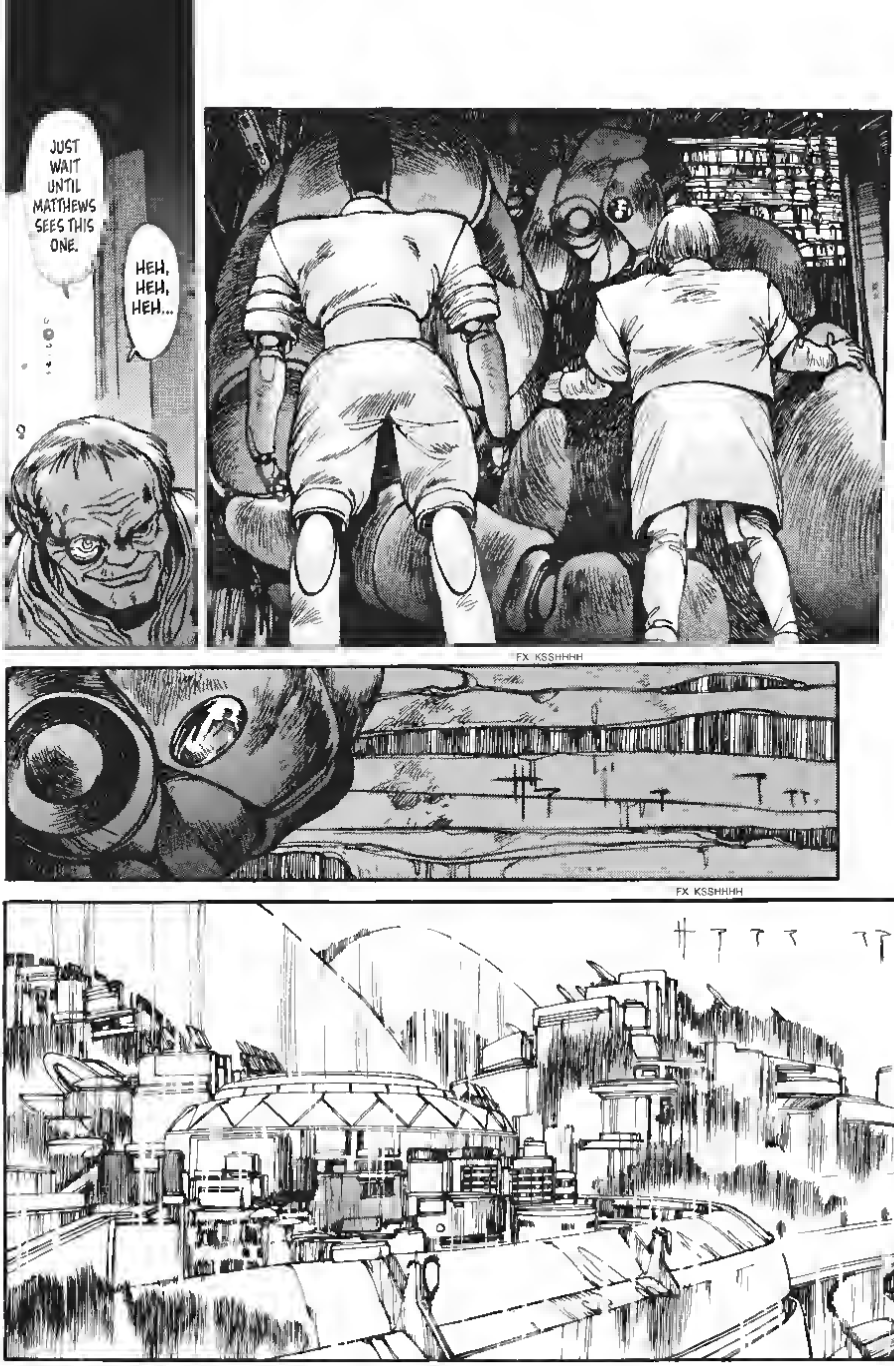
HMPH ARAB PUMPKIN!

*FX GLCH
FX BYUU
ZMM
FX FWA
I WISH TO RETURN IN A MANNER BEFITTING THE TRUE MAHDI.*
ALL I NEED IS ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO GET ME TO SYRIA OR PAKISTAN.
THE STAR OF MY SYSTEM, THE TITAN MODEL, CAN EVEN LINK UP WITH ONE OF THE "SPIDER" PLATFORMS. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT, EH?
HMPH! ALLAH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT--MY HECATON-CHIRES SYSTEM IS COMPLETELY ORIGINAL.
WHERE IS THE "GIFT OF ALLAH"?
1 CHEEC TOBACCO
FX SFSH SFSH SFSH
FX BASA BASA

*Literally "He who is guided"--the Muslim savior. The title of an expected spiritual and temporal ruler destined to establish a reign of righteousness throughout the world.

CALCULATE THE HORSEPOWER NEEDED FOR THE ARMOR IT HAS TO CARRY, AND THAT'S THE SIZE YOU COME UP WITH. I WANTED TO REPLACE THE EXOSKELETON WITH SYNTHETICS, BUT..
THE HEIGHT WORKS OUT TO SIX METERS, TWENTY CENTI-METERS
ALL THAT MATTERS IS *WEIGHT*. IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY TO MACHINE THE NEW HERMES METAL...THERE ARE SOME SIMILARITIES TO CARBON-FIBER MATERIALS...
THAT'S NONE OF MY AFFAIR.
FX: SPSH SPSH SPSH
I SHALL DESTROY THE *GREAT SATANS** AND THOSE FOOLS ON THE *PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE* AND THE *PEOPLE'S FRONT*. THERE IS NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE...ALREADY I HEAR THE VOICES OF THE ISLAMIC JIHAD CALLING OUT TO ME.
FIRST THE SURGERY. RECON-STRUCTION CAN PROCEED PARALLEL WITH MY REHABILITA-TION.
SOME-ONE'S BOUND TO TRACE ALL THOSE PARTS ORDERS. THEY'RE TOO SPECIAL-IZED...
ALL I HEAR ARE PATROL CAR SIRENS. WE'VE GOT TO HURRY- THE NEXT TIME THE COPS COME AROUND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE *THIS*.

*The United States, the Soviet Union, France, Israel, Iraq, etc. The other two organizations are dissident groups based in France that oppose the Iranian republic.


JUST WAIT UNTIL MATTHEWS SEES THIS ONE.
HEH, HEH, HEH...
FX: KSSHHHH
FX: KSSHHHH

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT* SUPPOSED TO BE?! DO IT OVER AGAIN!
WHOCK
BLAM BRRRRT
BLAM
Hubba hubba
THAT'S THE WAY, KNUTE GOOD SHOW
PLISS! DON'T MOVE YOUR GUN SO MUCH WHEN YOU RUN!
ESWAT
SEND KEITH, STERNBACH, KONOFF, KALUTA, RAOUL, AND BARAKHORNE BACK TO THEIR OLD UNITS.
YEA! YEA! SURE
SO LAST NIGHT ME AND HER SPENT THE WHOLE TIME--
CHUFF CHUFF
I'm too
CALL ME SNAKE..
PLISS, ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME?
SWEK

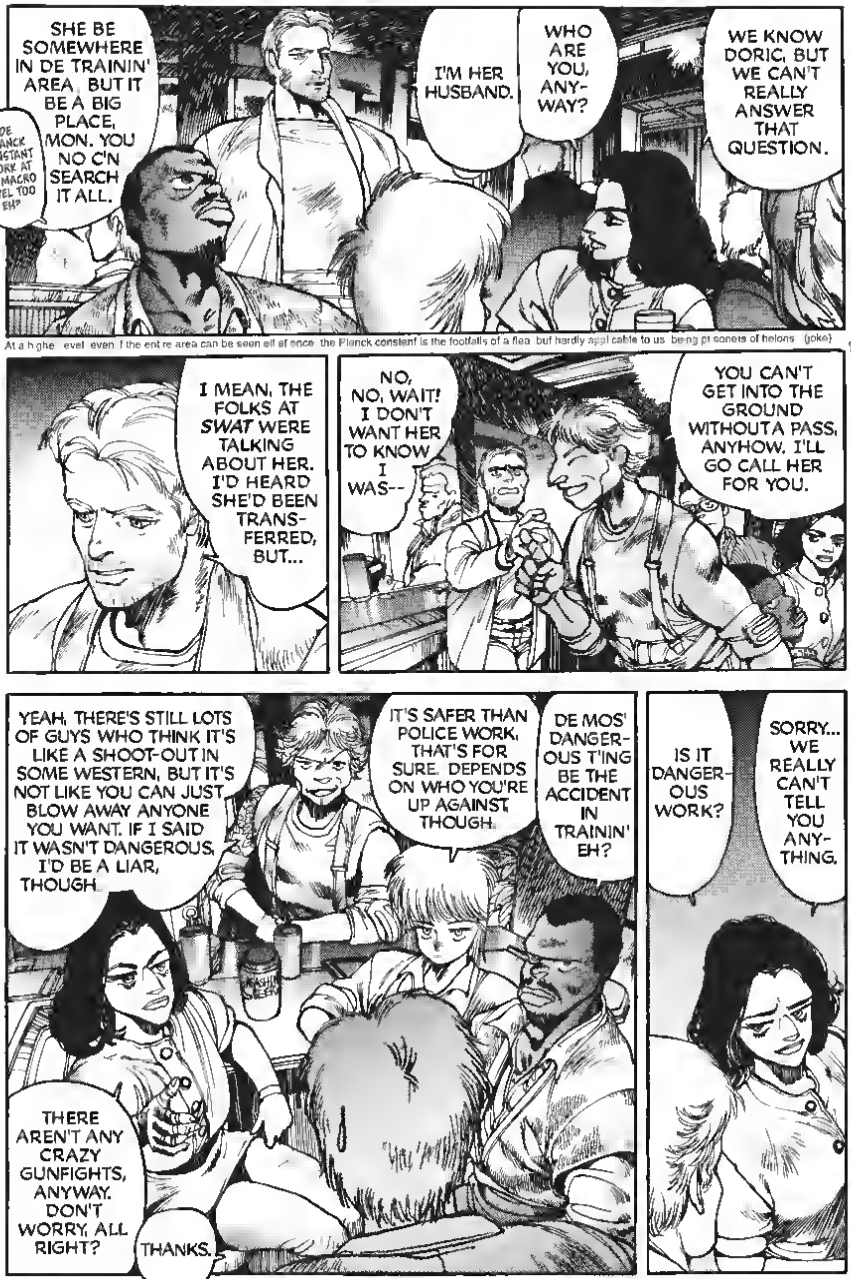
WSST
TAP TAP
FWT
FX POP
KLIK
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR PROB, MAN?! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RIGHT BEHIND ME!
AVIATION HALT
...
...
...
GREATER CITY
BLOWN TO SHIT

FX. SKRASSH KSHANGG
*FX. ZASH
*FX. KLIK
*FX. SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK
*FX. PAKKKTTT

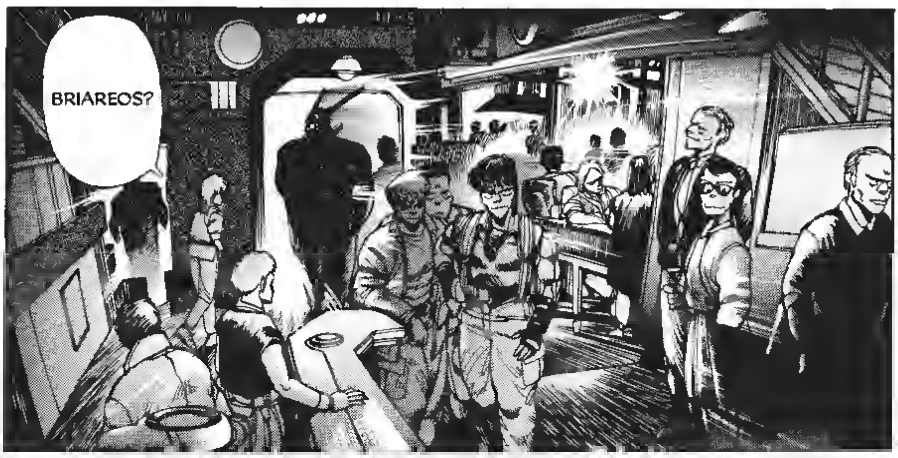
I'M A BAD, BAD GIRL!
GREEN, AREN'T YOU?
HEE HEE
IF I ONLY HAD A BRAIN BUT I DON'T ANYMORE!
POW
HA?
WHA?!
EEYAH!
POW
POW
YOU HAVE A TOUGH JOB, TOO...
THE NEW ROOKIE THEY'RE ALL TALKING ABOUT, RIGHT? YOU SEE THAT GRIN ON HER FACE? SHE'S A SADIST, I TELL YOU.
CHRIST... SHE STARTS OUT WITH FOUR KNIVES, AND TAKES OUT ALL SIXTEEN OF THOSE GUYS.
ENJOY YOUR-SELF?
I'M TIRED OF ALWAYS BEING THE BAD GUY.
BLUE MAX LALALA
Te enseña muchas cosas
YOUR PATTERNS ARE TOO DAMN SIMPLE! THAT'S HOW SHE READS YOU!
ONCE TRAINING'S OVER ME AND MARIA, WE'RE GONNA
THAT'S ALL YOU EVER TALK ABOUT!

ACT LIKE A SMART-ASS, AND THEY WON'T TAKE CARE OF YOU.
THOSE SIGNS...YOU SHOULDN'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT TO PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE SOMEDAY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Naturally
S.W.A.T.
YOU ANGRY ...?
THE FBI WILL LOOK AFTER THINGS HERE DURING BENANDANTI. I UNDERSTAND THEY'LL HAVE A GUY COVERING YOU DURING THE OPERATION, TOO.
ACCORDING TO AN FBI REPORT, THAT TRANSMITTER CHIP WENT FLYING OFF IN SOME AIR FREIGHT BOUND FOR THAILAND.
I'M SORRY! I PROMISE I WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD APOLOGIZING TO ME...!
Sure,
CORINTH, DEAR, THEY'RE GOING TO DO ANOTHER RUN-THROUGH IN TWENTY MINUTES, THIS TIME WITH THE BENANDANTI TEAM. HAVE YOU GOT ALL THE SIGNALS DOWN?

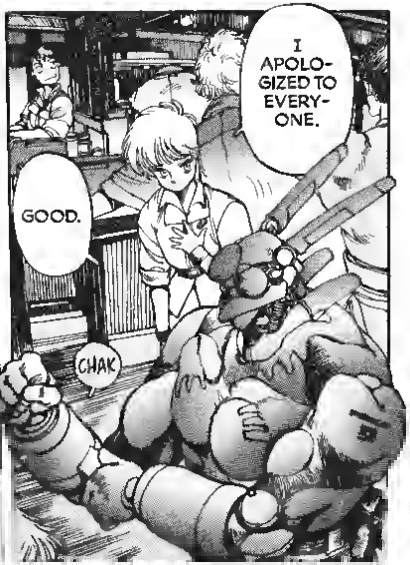
IT JUST SHOWS HOW MUCH HE WORRIES ABOUT YOU, OKAY? HE'S TRYING TO GET YOU PUMPED, YOU KNOW, REALLY GET INTO IT...
JERK!
RIGHT ON... I DON'T LIKE HIM STICKIN' HIS TWO CENTS IN ALL THE TIME LIKE THAT.
WATER TASTES LIKE NAP.
HEY, I NO BE SWEATIN' THAT ONE, EH? THE *POINTMAN*, SHE GOT BE GOOD ENOUGH WE ALL C'N TRUS' HER, EH!
AND PROBLEMS FOR ONE OF US ARE PROBLEMS FOR *ALL* OF US, RIGHT? AM I RIGHT OR WHAT?
ONE WEAK LINK IN THE CHAIN, EH?
PUT A CORK IN IT, WILL YA?! WE'RE ALL PART OF THE SAME TEAM, YA KNOW!
IT BE YOU TWO PROBLEM ANYWAY, MON.
DAMN MERICANS
YOU GUYS ON THE SAME TEAM AS DORIC?
HI THERE...
WATER?
SURE...
IT'S TRUE... WE'RE NOT CYBORGS, YOU KNOW. YOU'VE GOT TO CUT US A BIT MORE SLACK, OKAY?
YEAH, BUT THAT *CYBORG*, MON... WE NO C'N SEE IT, Y'KNOW, BUT HE SAY YOU BEEN ACTIN' MORE RUTHLESS'N *USUAL*. HE REALLY WORRIED, MON.

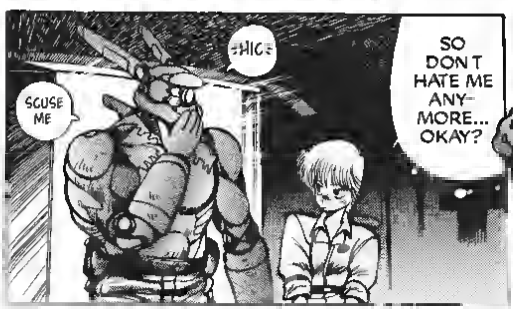

SHE BE SOMEWHERE IN DE TRAININ' AREA. BUT IT BE A BIG PLACE, MON. YOU NO C'N SEARCH IT ALL.
DE PLANCK CONSTANT WORK AT DE MACRO LEVEL TOO EH?
I'M HER HUSBAND.
WHO ARE YOU, ANY-WAY?
WE KNOW DORIC, BUT WE CAN'T REALLY ANSWER THAT QUESTION.
At a high level, even if the entire area can be seen all at once, the Planck constant is the footfalls of a flea, but hardly applicable to us being pt sonets of helons (joke)
I MEAN, THE FOLKS AT SWAT WERE TALKING ABOUT HER. I'D HEARD SHE'D BEEN TRANS-FERRED, BUT...
NO, NO, WAIT! I DON'T WANT HER TO KNOW I WAS--
YOU CAN'T GET INTO THE GROUND WITHOUT A PASS, ANYHOW. I'LL GO CALL HER FOR YOU.
YEAH, THERE'S STILL LOTS OF GUYS WHO THINK IT'S LIKE A SHOOT-OUT IN SOME WESTERN, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN JUST BLOW AWAY ANYONE YOU WANT. IF I SAID IT WASN'T DANGEROUS, I'D BE A LIAR, THOUGH.
IT'S SAFER THAN POLICE WORK, THAT'S FOR SURE. DEPENDS ON WHO YOU'RE UP AGAINST, THOUGH.
DE MOS' DANGER-OUS T'ING BE THE ACCIDENT IN TRAININ' EH?
THERE AREN'T ANY CRAZY GUNFIGHTS, ANYWAY. DON'T WORRY, ALL RIGHT?
THANKS.
IS IT DANGER-OUS WORK?
SORRY... WE REALLY CAN'T TELL YOU ANY-THING.

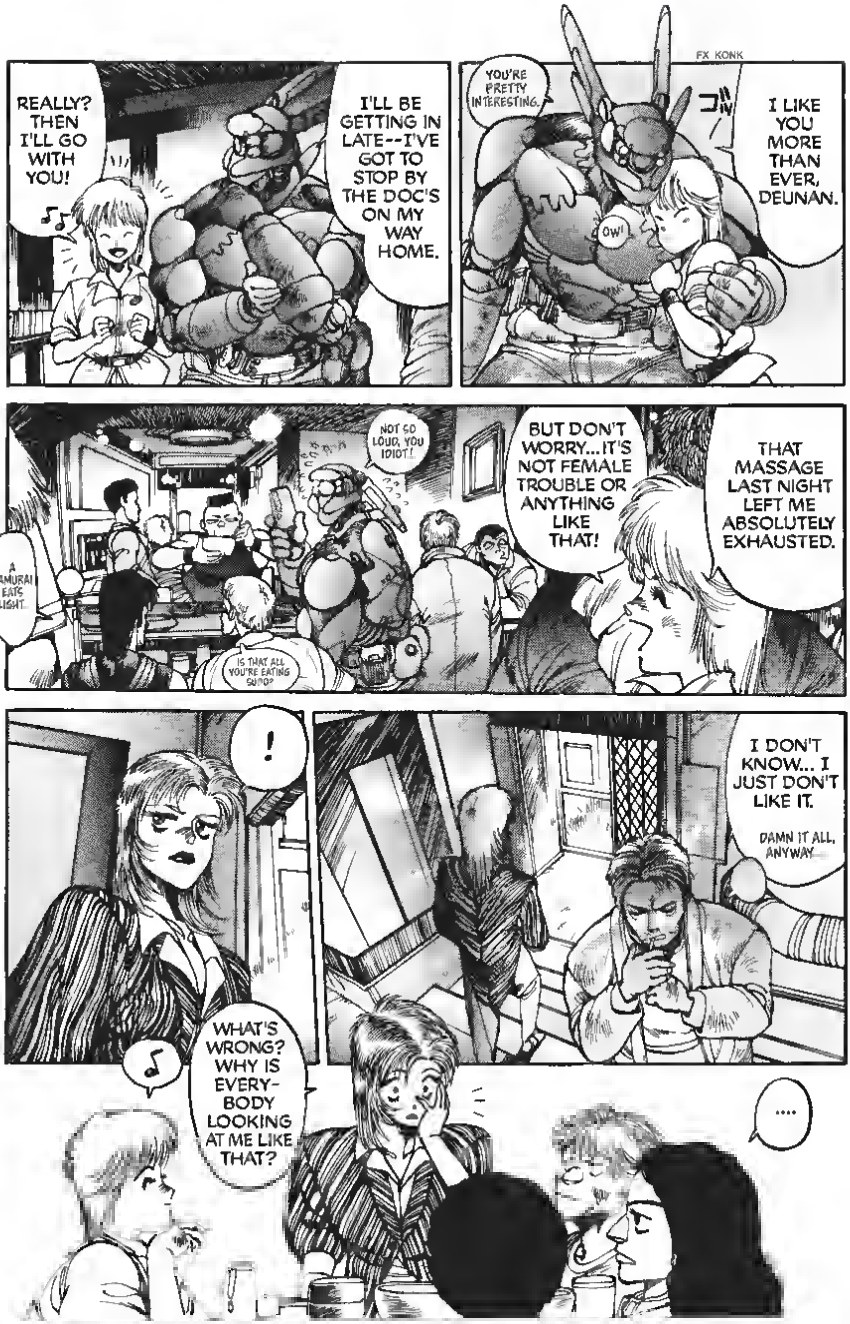
!
HERE COMES THE TOP ONE-MAN TEAM IN BENAN-DANTI!

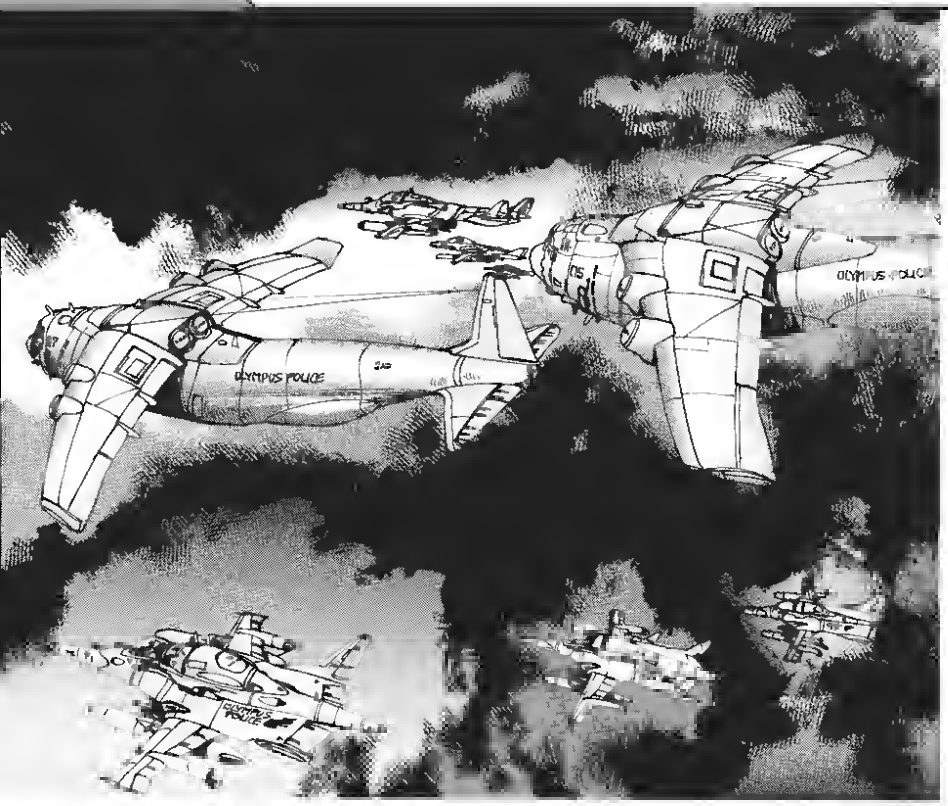

BRIAREOS?

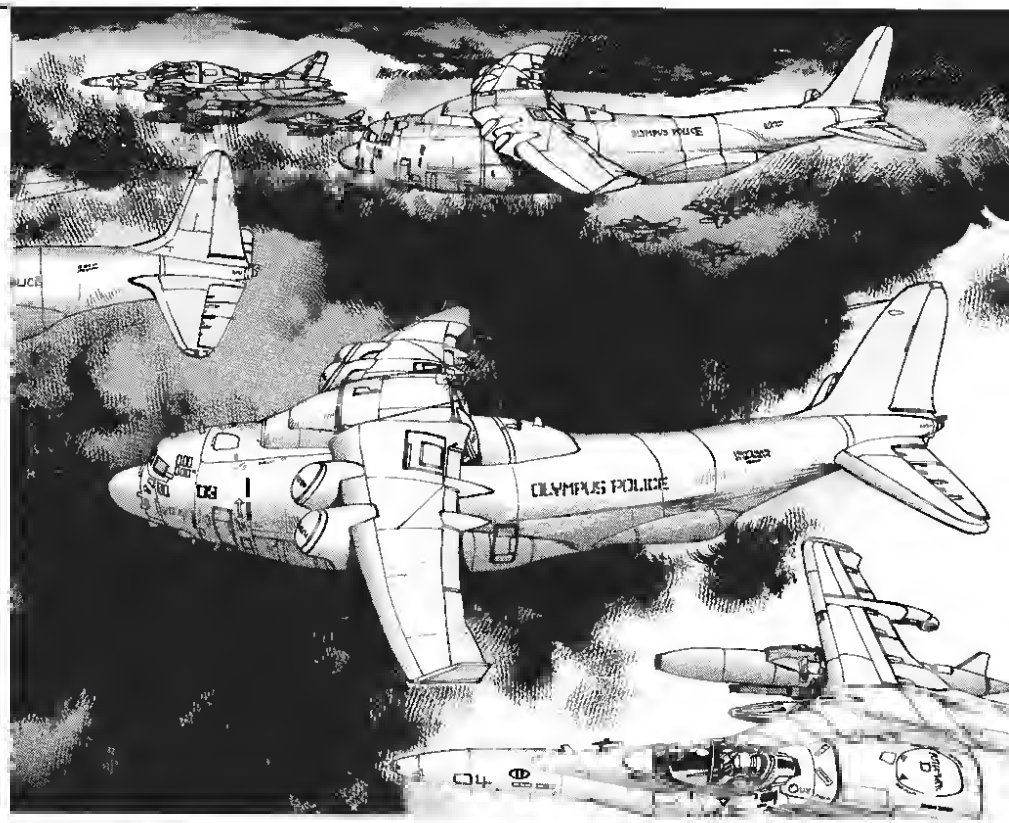
SO... ...
CHIK
SO... .....

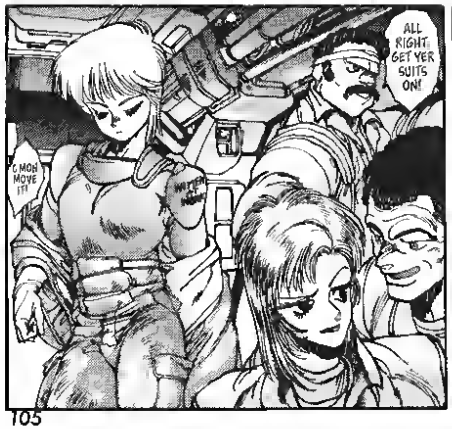

I APOLO-GIZED TO EVERY-ONE.
GOOD.
CHAK


SCUSE ME
CHIC
SO DON'T HATE ME ANY-MORE... OKAY?


REALLY? THEN I'LL GO WITH YOU!
I'LL BE GETTING IN LATE--I'VE GOT TO STOP BY THE DOC'S ON MY WAY HOME.
FX: KONK
YOU'RE PRETTY INTERESTING.
OW!
I LIKE YOU MORE THAN EVER, DEUNAN.
A SAMURAI EATS LIGHT.
NOT SO LOUD, YOU IDIOT!
IS THAT ALL YOU'RE EATING SUSHI?
BUT DON'T WORRY... IT'S NOT FEMALE TROUBLE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
THAT MASSAGE LAST NIGHT LEFT ME ABSOLUTELY EXHAUSTED.
!
I DON'T KNOW... I JUST DON'T LIKE IT.
DAMN IT ALL, ANYWAY
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY IS EVERY-BODY LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
....


OLYMPUS POLICE
OLYMPUS POLICE

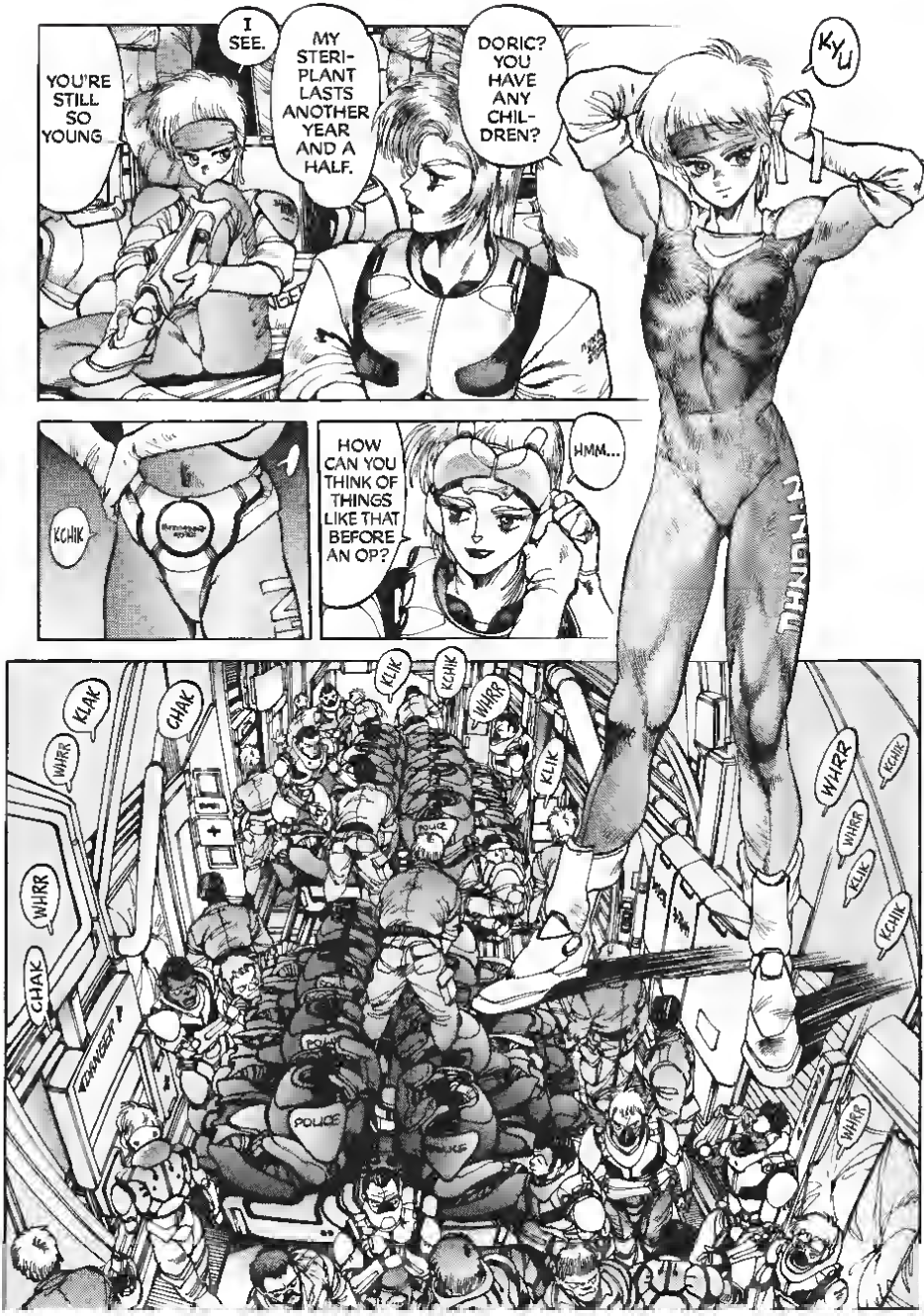

OLYMPUS POLICE
OLYMPUS POLICE


ALL RIGHT. GET YER SUITS ON!
C'MON MOVE IT!

GOOD ENOUGH.
SIXTY MINUTES TO TOUCH-DOWN.

105

104


YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG
I SEE.
MY STERI-PLANT LASTS ANOTHER YEAR AND A HALF.
DORIC? YOU HAVE ANY CHIL-DREN?
KYU
KCHIK
HOW CAN YOU THINK OF THINGS LIKE THAT BEFORE AN OP?
HMM...
KLAK
WHRR
CHAK
KLIK
KCHIK
WHRR
KLIK
WHRR
CHAK
"DANGER"
POLICE
WHRR
KCHIK
WHRR
KLIK
KCHIK
WHRR

BEEP
ALL HANDS! EYES ON THE MONITORS!
READY? OPEN THE CIRCUIT!
HMMM.
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED THAT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO HAVE A PROPER RUN-THROUGH, BUT I TRUST YOU GUYS.
I'LL GO OVER THE DEPLOYMENT PLANS IN THIRTY MINUTES.
WE'VE OBTAINED A PHOTO AND A ROUGH FLOOR PLAN OF THE TARGET.
I HEAR THEIR RESCUE UNIT, THE GIGN, IS PRETTY HOT. LOTS OF GOOD MEN, AND THEY'RE LIGHT ON THE TRIGGER FINGER, TOO.
I'VE GOT A PAL IN THE FRENCH EXTERNAL SECURITY BUREAU.
AH, SAME OLD SHIT. GONNA NEED THAT TREEBARK CAMO, THOUGH.
HEE-OOO, MON...IT BE JUS' LIKE BEVERLY HILLS OR TH' RIVIERA!
FRANCE IS A GREAT PLACE. THE PROBLEM IS THE BUNCH OF CROOKS WHO'RE RUNNING IT THESE DAYS.
GOOD, GOOD... LOOKIN' GOOD.
INTEL SAYS THE AREA'S GONNA BE SOCKED-IN FOR HOURS.

HEY!

...SO THIS UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION GOT TOO MEAN FOR ITS OWN GOOD. HAD TO DISBAND AFTER THE INFIGHTING BETWEEN TERRORIST GROUPS BACK IN '56. YOU KNOW, THE FRENCH UNDERGROUND WARS ANYWAY, YOU CAN THANK *THEM* FOR THIS OP.
是吗?
WHY NOT!
c'est pas!
WHAT A FACE!
DUNNO!

NO KIDDING?
CHAK
...SAYING YOU CAN'T DISCUSS RIGHT OR WRONG UNTIL YOU'VE ESTABLISHED YOUR MILITARY SUPERIORITY. AND IT'S EVEN STUPIDER FORCING YOUR OWN MORALITY ON OTHER PEOPLE.
IT'S PRETTY STUPID, REALLY...
CHAK

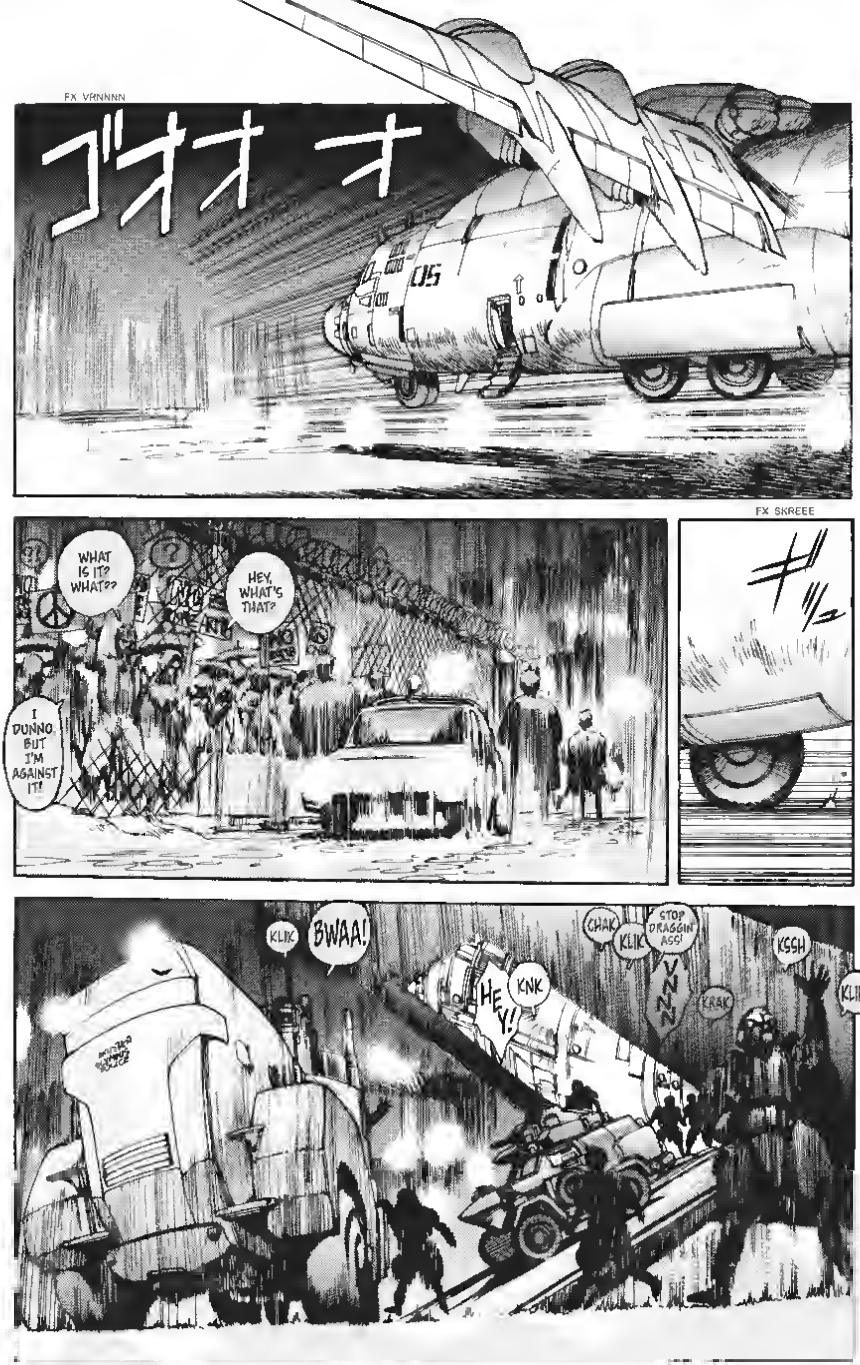
SHE'S ONLY *DRESSED* IN WOLF'S CLOTHING!
VMM VMM VMM VM
PLEASE DON'T PICK ON THIS POOR LITTLE LAMB, DORIC...
*FX: VNNN
SO WHY GET INVOLVED IN THIS OP AT ALL, DEUNAN?
SHU
ISN'T THAT WHAT BENANDANTI IS ALL ABOUT?
VNNN
BYUU
!
*FX: VNNN
BANG
WHSSH
KANG
WHSSH
OH, YEAH? WHICH FAIRY TALE IS *THAT?* THE ONE WHERE THE LAMB HAD TO BECOME A TIGER TO FIGHT THE WOLVES?
*FX: SHFF SHFF SHFF
DEUNAN!
OH MAMMY WERE A DRUG LORD'S WHORE, HE SHOT HER UP TIL SHE WERE SORE
KRAK
ALL RIGHT! LET'S KICK SOME ASS!!
PKING
OOPS!
HEY!
SKK
MINE AREN'T MAKING ANY NOISE, ARE THEY?
MY TENSION ADJUSTMENTS ARE RIGHT ON!
NO MORE KFIRS OR MIGS ANY MORE...
THINK THEY'LL SEND MIRAGES AFTER US?

FANG BACKBONE. BERYL A-10 F. THAT'S HIS NAME.
"A-10"...?
I CONSIDERED LEAVING YOU IN THE PLANE AND HAVING A-10 TAKE YOUR PLACE. BUT THE TEAM HAS A RHYTHM OF ITS OWN. IT BREATHES. YOU CAN'T TREAT IT LIKE A MACHINE.

SHORT FOR ASSAULT 10 FAILURE. NO CONNECT ON WITH THE FANG OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC. THE DOMINANCE OF ELF GABON CONTINUES

THINGS WON'T BE BACK TO NORMAL UNTIL THEY'VE CONFIRMED WHETHER OR NOT THE SPY ALTERED THE CHIP THAT *WE* RECOVERED. CAUTION, CAUTION.
BUT EVEN IF THEY *DID* FIND OUT ABOUT THE TRANSMITTER, I CAN'T SEE HOW THERE'D BE ANY UNUSUAL DANGER TO ME...
THEY DON'T TRUST YOU

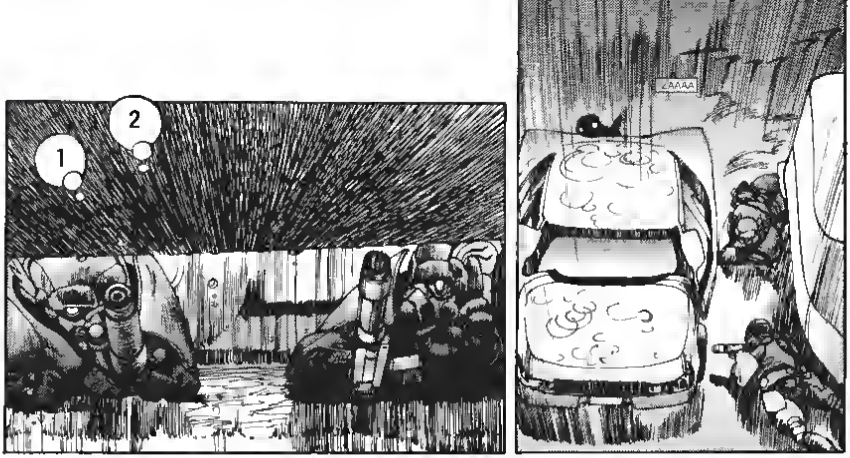
MAYBE HE'S JUST GOT GOOD TASTE. NO TIME TO CHASE AFTER HIM NOW, KNUTE.
TALK ABOUT RUDE! HE JUST WALKED OFF! I'LL BET HE'S GAY!
OH, FAAANG!--HUH?
OH, YEAH? HOW NICE SHOULD I BE? REEAL NICE, MAYBE?
OH
HE SAVED YOUR BUTT, REMEMBER?
PING
GAH!
FANG, LOOK AFTER DEUNAN. DEUNAN, BE NICE TO FANG.
C'MON, GUY. CALM DOWN
OH, MAN...OH, MAN...
THAT LITTLE BUNCH OF LIGHTS?
THERE'S PARIS


FX VRNNNN
ゴオオオ
FX SKREEE
WHAT IS IT? WHAT??
HEY, WHAT'S THAT?
I DUNNO BUT I'M AGAINST IT!
KLIK
BWAA!
HEY!
KNK
CHAK
KLIK
STOP DRAGGIN' ASS!
VNNN
KRAK
KSSH
KLIK

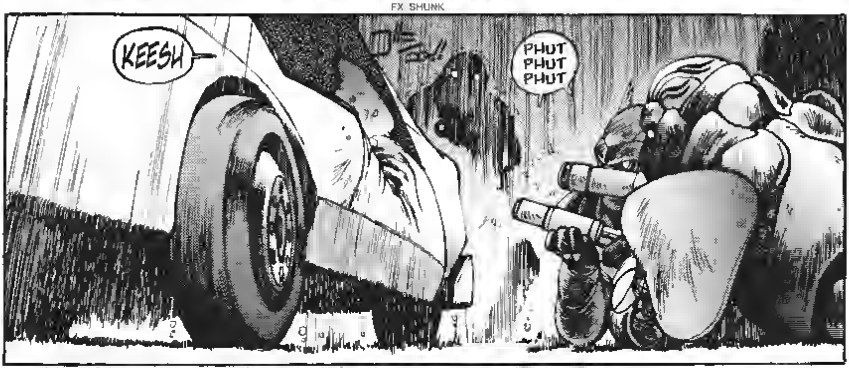
ZAA
ZAA
CHAK
ZAA
FX: VRMMM
ZAA
ZAA
GET YOUR REAR IN GEAR! RUN! RUN!
ZAA
GOOD!
READY TO MOVE OUT!
FASTER FASTER
RIGHT! THAT'S IT!
POLICE
MOVE OUT!
WE COULD HAVE SAVED A GOOD FORTY SECONDS WITH A RUN-THROUGH...
AH, WHAT THE HELL

"FX: ZAAAAAAA GASA GASA"

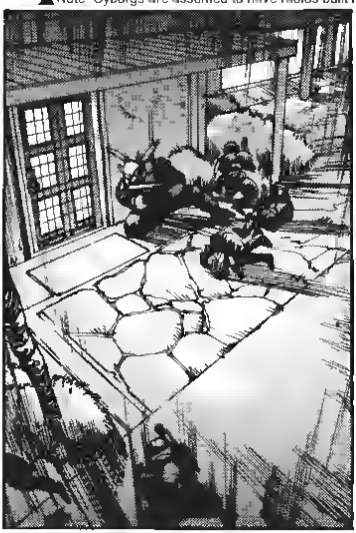
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES, HUH? BRINGS BACK OLD MEMORIES, THAT'S FOR SURE. THE RAIN'S WASHED OFF THEIR COVER, HEH, HEH
DON'T EVEN HAVE TO STEP ON THESE BABIES... THEY JUMP OUT AND BLAST YOU
SO OF COURSE THEY'VE GOT THE DETOUR BOOBY-TRAPPED.
DON'T TOUCH IT-- GO AROUND.
DAMN... THEY'VE GOT BARBED WIRE STRUNG THROUGH THE UNDER-GROWTH.
KLIK
MORT AU TIGRAN
HOLD IT!
SERGEANT, WAIT. DORIC, LINK UP.
THAT'S HOW I CAN TELL IT'S A CYBORG, NOT A HUMAN. LOOK AT HOW FAR THE SUSPENSION'S BEEN COMPRESSED. ANYWAY, WE CAN'T GAS HIM.
HOW DO YOU KNOW? THERE'S NO EXHAUST, NO WINDOW FOGGING...
?
THERE'S A CYBORG IN THAT WHITE CAR.



FX: SHUNK



▲ Note: Cyborgs are assumed to have radios built in—hence, no attempt at taking him alive.



Note: An A/S is the noise emitted by a physical event. Orcs are equipped to monitor their comrades for the sound of breaking armor.

▲ Note: Following this op, all green beret cyborgs were required to have their heartbeats monitored. In contrast, the orc suits monitor acoustic signatures (A/S).

DON'T PUT ANY PRESSURE ON THE DOOR-MAT!
OKAY.
TAK! TAK!
MUNCH MUNCH
SOP

YOU CALL THIS *GOOD?!* WE COULD SMELL THIS HOLE A MILE OFF!
HEY! SO FRANCE HAS PRETTY GOOD SEWERS, AFTER ALL!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU, ANY-WAY..? SOME KINDA SATYR OR SOME-THING?
NOT AGAIN
CHRIST, WE GOT GARBAGE DUTY THIS TIME. I HATE THIS STINK... LI'L MICHELLE WON'T KISS ME ANYMORE!
I WONDER IF MY FILTER'S BUSTED-- I'M GETTIN' A REAL NOSEFUL.
YOU FIGURE THEIR HOUSE STINKS AS WELL? WHAT WITH THEIR LITTLE "ESCAPE CHUTE" AND THE STENCH OF CRIME..
WELL, NOW WE SIT AND WAIT.
GREEN ACROSS THE BOARD. ALL TEAMS IN PLACE. FIFTY SECONDS AND COUNTING.
ALL CLEAR?
FUJI
ONE MINUTE AND COUNT-ING.

YOU'RE TREATING THE FRENCH POLICE LIKE DIRT! YOU ARROGANT OLYMPUS TYPES ARE GETTING TO BE--
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS GIVE *OUR* UNITS THE INFORMATION! THAT'S HOW *INTERPOL* WOULD HAVE DONE IT.
...FILE A PROTEST WITH THE MINISTRY.
THAT SORT OF THING DOESN'T WORK WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST COMBAT CYBORGS. IF YOU DON'T LIKE OUR TACTICS...
IF *WE* WERE DOING IT, *MES AMIS*, WE'D QUIET THEM DOWN WITH GAS, SMOKE THEM OUT, *ANYTHING* TO AVOID BLOODSHED! EVEN BEFORE WE WENT THAT FAR, WE'D USE BULLHORNS...
CONFLICT BETWEEN NATIONS IS USED AS AN EXCUSE TO LEGITIMIZE *ANY* CRIME. IT'S TIME TO PUT AN END TO BORDERS!
HLK--!
GO!!
1
2
--BE SORRY! I'M FILING A COMPLAINT WITH YOUR EMBASSY I'M--
ALL SQUADS, LINK INTO THE COMNET! 3!
EXCUSE ME

FSST
*FSST
BEEP
FSST FSST
FSST
FSST FSST
FSST
FSST FSST
FSST FSST
CHAK
HA?
THUD
CHOICE
VNNN

*FX SPAK SPAK
FX FWA
FX FWA
Choose between death and disgrace
C2, A6 CLEAR. ONE DEAD, FOUR DOWN.
KLIK
CHAK
!
!
FX FWA

?
FX: FWA
ANYONE STUPID ENDUGH TO JDIN THIS BUNCH DESERVES TO BE PDUNDED INTO FERTILIZER! AT LEAST THAT WAY HE'D HELP FEED SDME REFUGEES!
JUST TAKE HIM OUT QUICK AND CLEAN! HE'S ONLY A HIRELING FOR--
IF HE ISN'T POISONOUS ANYWAY
FX: WHOK
YEAH, WHAT?
HEY! HEY!
FX: HYNN
KRAK!
WNFF!
FX: KRAK KRAK
C2 CLEAR, ONE DEAD...
MY GUILT RUNS DEEPER THAN THE OCEAN. HEH, HEH.
CHECK OUT C4, THEN RUN BACKUP ON C12!
WHAT THE HELL'S WITH HER?! WEIRD LITTLE BRAT...MUST BE ON HER PERIOD.
WHAT'S SHE BEING SO HIGH AND MIGHTY ABOUT? FRIGID BITCH!

KOFF
I COULDN'T AGREE MORE, COLONEL. YET THE LANGUAGE OF IMPERIAL AMERICANA IS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

ONE OF POSEIDON'S FOREIGN PROPAGANDISTS SAID IT BEST--"THE ONLY *LINGUA FRANCA* CAPABLE OF TRANSCENDING NATION, RACE, RELIGION, AND PHILOSOPHY IS *MONEY*."

BUT AREN'T YOU CONCERNED THAT THIS MIGHT BRING THE ISLAMIC FEDERATION INTO THE FIGHTING? YOU CAN'T START GIVING THIS MUCH SUPPORT TO THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES AND NOT EXPECT RETALIATION. IN ANY CASE, I UNDERSTAND THE PARTICIPATION OF CENTRAL AMERICA HAS LEFT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS THE FEDERATED U.S.S.R., IS THIS REALLY WISE?
I'M SURE MR. PRESIDENT WILL BE DELIGHTED. RIGHT NOW, NEITHER WE IN ISRAEL NOR FRANCE HAVE THE LEEWAY TO HELP THE P.L.O. ...

IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY, WE CAN USE THE DIPLOMATIC ROUTE. WE'RE MOVING $70OC MILLION THROUGH MIAMI ALONE--THAT'S MORE THAN OUR DEPARTMENT'S ENTIRE TAKE. PERHAPS IF YOU TALK DIRECTLY WITH POSEIDON...
WHEN CAN YOU SUPPLY THE TECHNICIANS TO WORK ON THE NEW FIGHTER?
PIP
GG. I'M ABOUT TO ENTER THE TREASURE ROOM

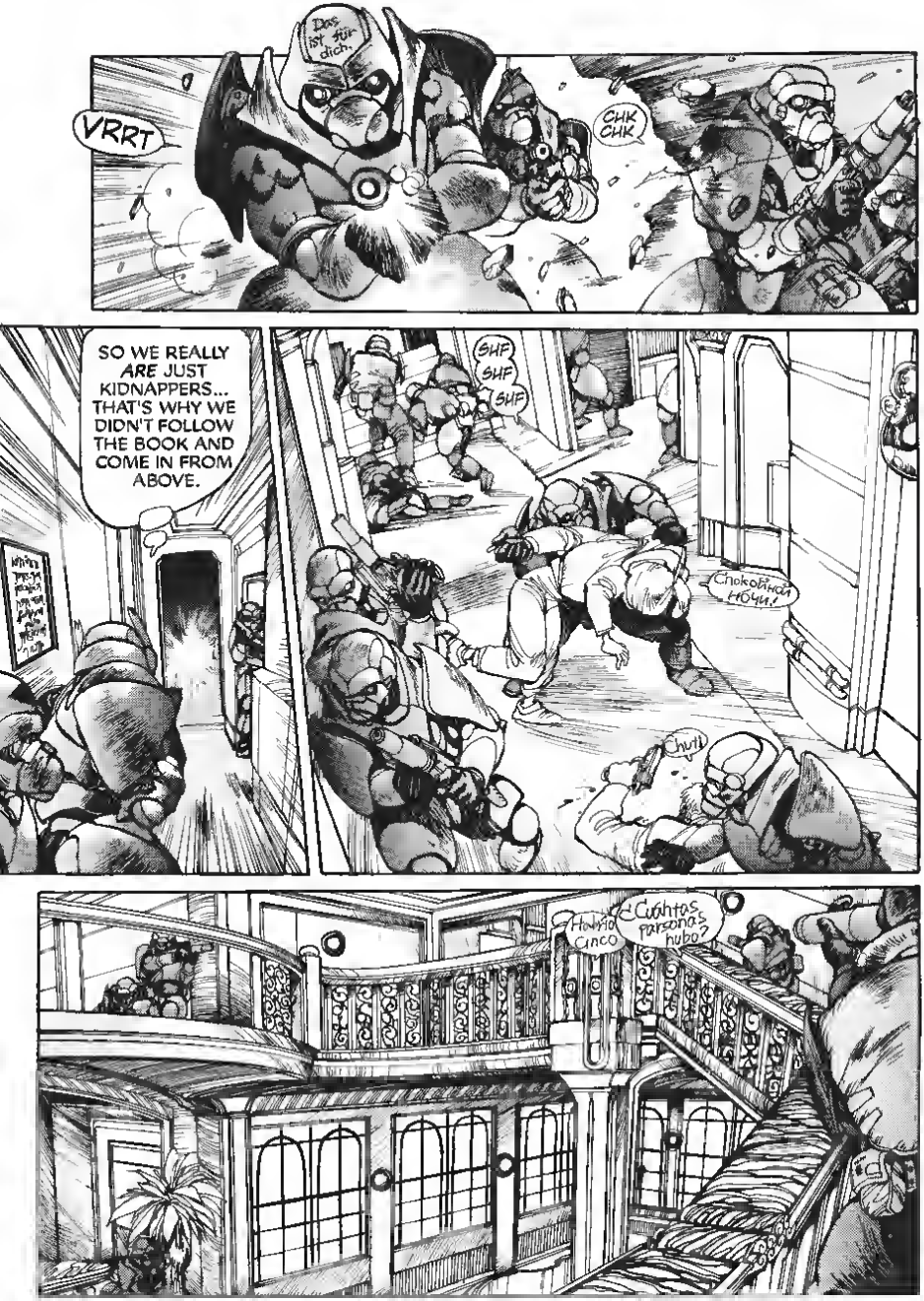
THE MINISTER LOST HIS UNCLE AT THE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI WHEN WE BLOCKADED LIBYA. I'M CONFIDENT HE'LL COOPERATE.

THE U.S.S.R. DOESN'T LIKE GOING INTO DEBT TO ARABS. AS THEY SAY, "TO GET TO THE MIDDLE EAST, GO TO FRANCE."

!
!
VVVT
FX BRTTT
CHK CHK CHK CHK
SHFF
FX BTAM
バン!
!
FX WHDD
ドン

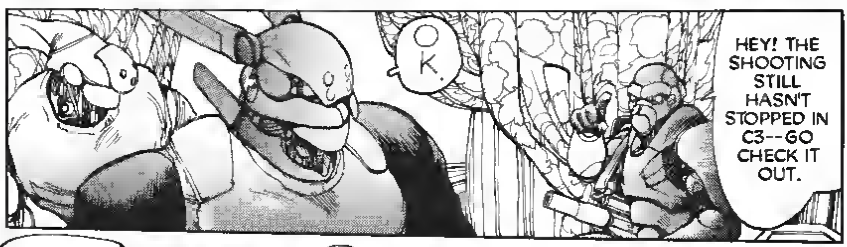
C6, M1 - SEVEN DOWN THREE DEAD.
- GHT!
HANDS OVER YOUR HEAD! UP AGAINST THE WALL!
- HATCH TO C6 -
IFX. FWDD.
WHA?!
HEY, HEY! I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING MAJOR! IF WE DON'T GET THESE SUITS *REALLY* CLEAN, THEY AREN'T GONNA LET US BACK ON THE PLANE!
CHRIST, WHAT A STINK!
Y'KNOW, I JUST WANTED TO HAVE SOME KINDA EFFECT ON THE WORLD SITUA-TION...
HN?
WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW-- *CLASS "A"* GARBAGE!
C6, 55 ONE DOWN

FX BRRTTT!
CHK CHK CHK
FX BRRTTT!
YAAAA!
FX WHOO
HNG!
CETEKS, STAND BY!
BALCONY ONE DEAD
FX BOMF
KYAA!
COVER THE DOORS!
WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER!
WHO IS IT?! RED HAWKS? ARAB COM-MAND?


Das ist für dich.
VRRT
CHK CHK
SO WE REALLY ARE JUST KIDNAPPERS... THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T FOLLOW THE BOOK AND COME IN FROM ABOVE.
SHF SHF SHF
Спокойной ночи!
Hola cinco
¿Cuántas personas hubo?

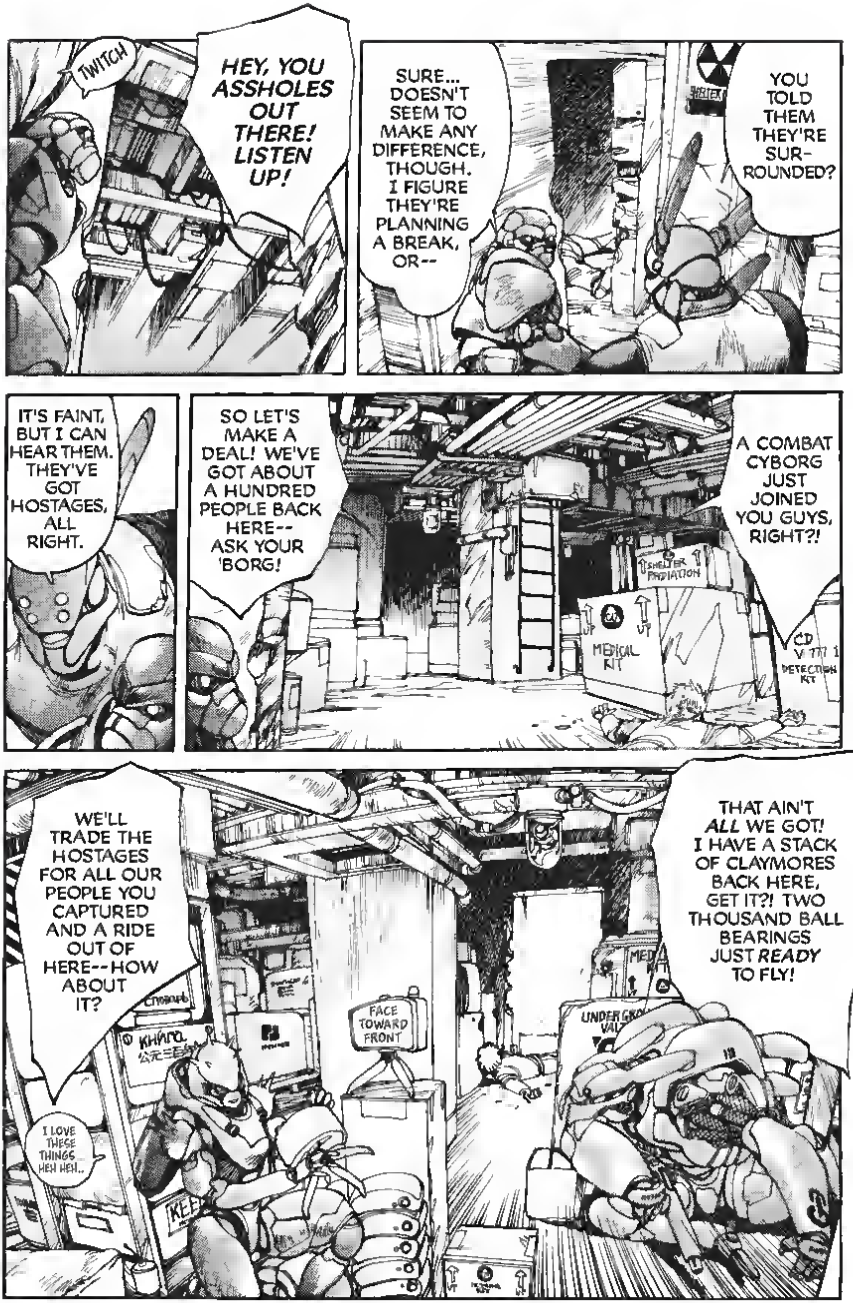
LANCE, DAMN YOU! "JUST A GESTURE," INDEED!
THAT'S THE VICE DIRECTOR OF THE IMPERIAL AMERICANA NAVAL SPECIAL FORCES! THIS THING'S FOR REAL!
SHUT UP
I'VE GOT CLAUSTRO-PHOBIA
....
SOCIAL DISTOR-TIONS TURN THE WEAK INTO CRIMI-NALS.
THESE ARE THE GUYS WHO WARP SOCIETY AND CREATE THE ENVIRON-MENT FOR CRIME...
?
I'M A HAP-PY LITTLE DEATH MACHINE... WITH A SMILE AND A KNIFE
SO THIS IS A POLITI-CAL OP!
CASUALTIES ZERO. THIRTY-TWO ARRESTS, SIX INJURED EIGHT DEATHS
FIRST FLOOR CLEARED. SECOND FLOOR AND BASEMENT IN PROG-RESS.
ALL POSTS, REPORT!
C12 CLEAR!
C9 CLEAR!
C6 CLEAR!
C2 CLEAR!
C8, ONE ESCAPED! C4, WILL CONFIRM!

SEEMS YOUR LEGISLATURE DOESN'T THINK TOO KINDLY OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO.
OUI, WE SURE AS HELL DO. I'M AFRAID WE'VE GOT CLEARANCE, MAJOR.
AT LEAST AS OF TWENTY MINUTES AGO...
AND IMPERIAL AMERICANA AND THE MIDDLE EAST CAN JUST STUFF IT.
BAM BRRT
BLAM
AN OUTRAGE! WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU?! THIS IS A FRENCH GOVERNMENT GUEST-HOUSE! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS--THIS TERRORISM?!


O.K.
HEY! THE SHOOTING STILL HASN'T STOPPED IN C3--GO CHECK IT OUT.

BRRT
TWO COMBAT 'BORGS WITH LAMINATED ARMOR. THEY'RE TOUGH MOTHERS...WE CAN'T BUDGE 'EM.
BRRT
BLAM
STATUS?

BLAM
BRRT
BRRT


TWITCH
HEY, YOU ASSHOLES OUT THERE! LISTEN UP!
SURE... DOESN'T SEEM TO MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE, THOUGH. I FIGURE THEY'RE PLANNING A BREAK, OR--
YOU TOLD THEM THEY'RE SURROUNDED?
IT'S FAINT, BUT I CAN HEAR THEM. THEY'VE GOT HOSTAGES, ALL RIGHT.
SO LET'S MAKE A DEAL! WE'VE GOT ABOUT A HUNDRED PEOPLE BACK HERE-- ASK YOUR 'BORG!
A COMBAT CYBORG JUST JOINED YOU GUYS, RIGHT?!
SHELTER FROM RADIATION
MEDICAL KIT
WE'LL TRADE THE HOSTAGES FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE YOU CAPTURED AND A RIDE OUT OF HERE--HOW ABOUT IT?
THAT AIN'T ALL WE GOT! I HAVE A STACK OF CLAYMORES BACK HERE, GET IT?! TWO THOUSAND BALL BEARINGS JUST READY TO FLY!
FACE TOWARD FRONT
I LOVE THESE THINGS. HEH HEH...

AT TWO MINUTES, TEN SECONDS, WE START WASTING HOSTAGES ONE BY ONE! NO NEGOTIATORS, NO STALLING, NO NOTHING!!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I MEAN! YOU RELEASE THE TEN PEOPLE WE TELL YOU AND BRING THEM HERE INSIDE OF TWO MINUTES!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?!
GET LANCE ON THE COMLINK!
MORE MEN ON THE REAR EXIT!
I WANT THE BOMB SQUAD AND THE MEDICS DOWN HERE!
CAN YOU TELL WHAT MODEL THEY ARE?
SO SORRY I WAS BUILT FAT!
FRIGGIN' 'BORGS! CHRIST, JUST BECAUSE THEY CAN SOAK UP A FEW HITS WITHOUT DYING, THEY FIGURE THEY OWN THE GODDAMN WORLD!
MIGHT BE POLITICAL MERCS... REAL HARD-CASES.
THEY DON'T RESPOND TO RF SIGNAL INTERROGATION--THEY MUST HAVE CUT THEIR IFF TRANSPONDERS. DON'T THINK THEY'RE MILITARY...
SHIT!
HEY, HOLD IT! I SAID HOLD IT!
YOU NEED ME ANYMORE? I'M HEADING TO C3.
FX DASH

TELL YA WHAT. WE'LL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE OF CHECKIN' ON THOSE VOICES. WE'LL JUST CRUSH UP A COUPLE OF THE HOSTAGES AND CHUCK 'EM OUT TO YOU.. SEE IF *THAT'S* REAL, MAN!
WHY DON'T YOU ASK *GOD* FOR HELP, HUH?!
SKRK SKRK
WE'VE GOT PLENTY TO SPARE SO *QUIT SCREWIN' AROUND!*
AT LEAST GIVE US TIME TO CONFIRM THAT THOSE ARE REAL VOICES AND NOT A RECORDING!
OLYMPUS POLICE ESWAT
GEEZ, I..
WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH THAT MANY HOSTAGES. WE SHOULD JUST LET THEM GO, LOOK FOR AN OPENING..
OLYMPUS POLICE ESWAT
WELL, WELL... GLAD I CAME OUT FOR A LOOK.
NICE NIGHT, EH?
SHIT!
HEY, THE GANG'S ALL HERE! HOWDY DO, BOYS!
ZASH!

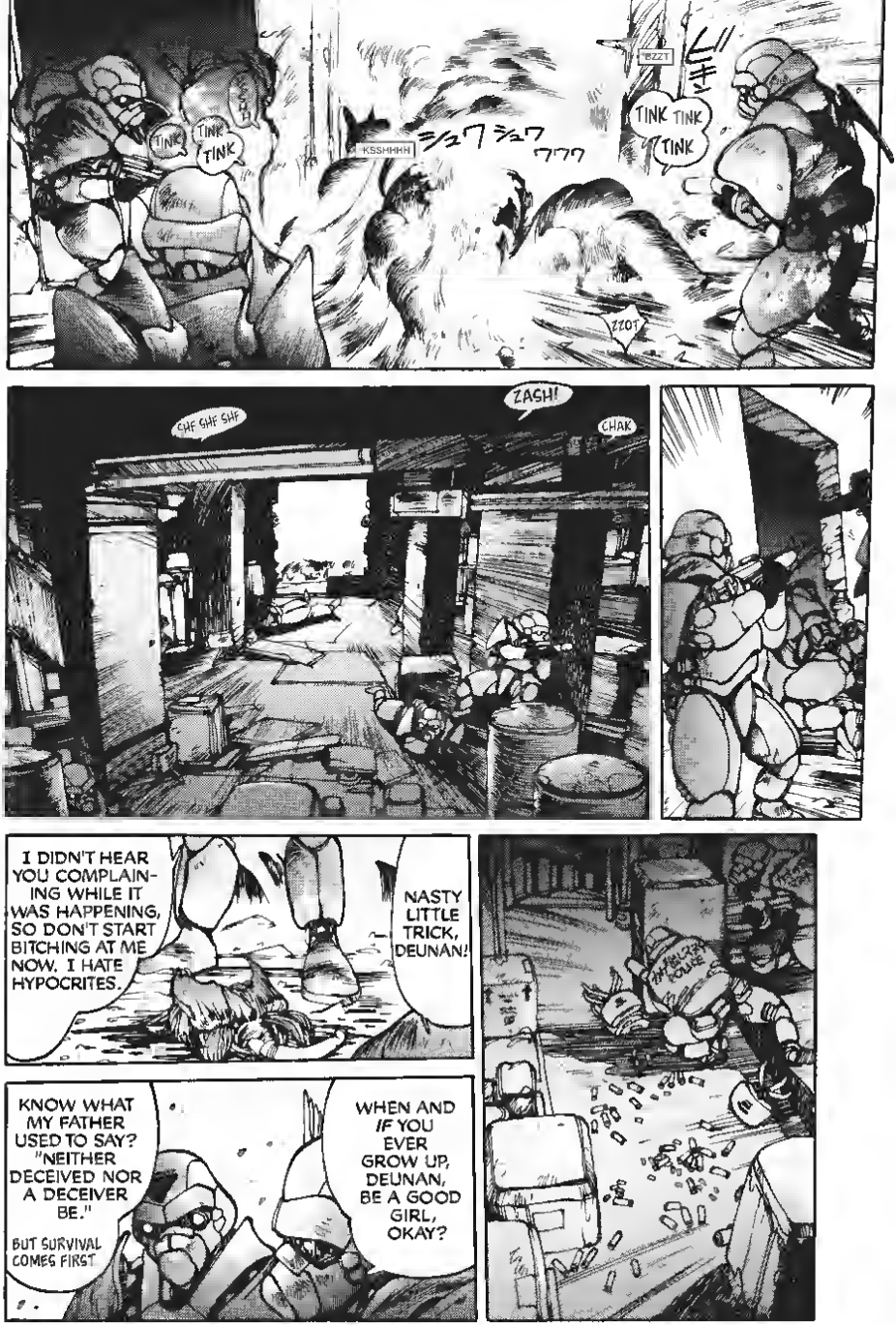
ALL THOSE ATTACH-MENTS... YOU MUST BE A *HECATON-CHIRES.*
YEAH, I HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU GUYS... KEEP ADDING ON TERMINALS AND YOU CAN RUN A GODDAMN AIRCRAFT CARRIER BY YOUR-SELVES. THE MONSTER WITH AN OCTOPUS BRAIN-STEM
ALL RIGHT, YOU JERKS! *DISMANTLE HIM!*
WE'LL DIS-MANTLE *YOU,* ASS-HOLE!
HOLD IT!
DON'T SHOOT!
KCHAK
KCHAK
KCHAK
LOOK, THIS GUY'S NOT YOUR NORMAL FREAK.
SON OF A BITCH PROBABLY HAS AN AUGMENTED BRAIN. YOU GUYS DISMANTLE HIM AND WE'LL LET HALF THE HOSTAGES GO.
DON'T HANG AROUND OUT THERE, PAN-HEIMER!
THEY'VE GOT A HECATON-CHIRES. I'M GONNA SCRAP HIM.
I'M GONNA COUNT DOWN FROM *FIVE.*
FOUR!

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO NEGOTIATE!
HER AGAIN?!
HEY!
WATCH THIS...
*FX. CHIK
JUST HOLD ON A SECOND-- YOU GUYS ARE SCREWING UP!
THAT'S WHAT I CALL AN EXCHANGE!
RELEASE ALL THE HOSTAGES RIGHT GODDAMN NOW, AND MAYBE WE WON'T KILL YOU TWO SHIT-HEELS!!
SO WHO THE HELL IS EVER GOING TO KNOW?!
WE CAN'T JUST--
JESUS, THERE GOES MY BONUS! ARE YOU CRAZY OR WHAT?!
SHE'S CRAZY...!
POW
SHOOT ME AND FIFTY HOSTAGES ARE DEAD MEAT, YOU GOT IT?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP, DARLIN'.
GO AHEAD, AND YOU DIE, OR YOU CAN RELEASE THEM AND BEG FOR YOUR LIVES, AND WE MIGHT LET YOU SEE TOMORROW.
HFF.
THIS ASSAULT'S A BLACK OP-- TOTALLY DENIABLE, AND WE ALREADY GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR. SO YOU WANT TO BLOW AWAY THE HOSTAGES...?

*FX GLANCE
THREE!
YOU BOTH LIVE OR YOU BOTH DIE! I'M COUNTING DOWN FROM THREE-- CHOOSE!!
YOU AREN'T GONNA LET US KILL A HUNDRED HOSTAGES!
BULL-SHIT!
IF YOU DON'T GIVE UP, BIG DEAL. YOU AND THE HOSTAGES DIE, THAT'S ALL. WE DON'T LOSE A THING.
A HUN-DRED HOSTAGES AND YOU!
*FX KRONK
TWO!
*FX KANG
WE'LL BRING THEM DOWN BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO BE REVIVED... WE NEED MORE TIME!
LOOK... WE'VE ALREADY SEDATED ALL THE PRISONERS.
CHAK
KLIK
BIP
URK!

WHAT?!
KOI KOI
FLAP FLAP
WE CAN'T TRUST THESE BASTARDS! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE MINES-- YOU BRING OUT TEN OF THE HOSTAGES FOR COVER!
DEUS EX MACHINA
I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE'D GET A TRUCK--?
WHSS

KRANG
FWA
FX KRAK
FX SKOOM
BRRT
FX SPAK SPAK SPAK


TINK
TINK
TINK
KSSHHHH
ZZZT
TINK TINK
TINK
ZZOT
SHF SHF SHF
ZASH!
CHAK
I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COMPLAINING WHILE IT WAS HAPPENING, SO DON'T START BITCHING AT ME NOW. I HATE HYPOCRITES.
NASTY LITTLE TRICK, DEUNAN!
KNOW WHAT MY FATHER USED TO SAY? "NEITHER DECEIVED NOR A DECEIVER BE."
BUT SURVIVAL COMES FIRST.
WHEN AND *IF* YOU EVER GROW UP, DEUNAN, BE A GOOD GIRL, OKAY?

HMPH!
I'VE GOT A FEELING THERE'S MORE CYBORGS AROUND SOMEWHERE!
OLYMPUS POLICE
CUTE LITTLE STUNT, GIRL.
LEAVE THOSE BODIES FOR THE BOMB SQUAD.
FX: BOMF
FX: BOMF
FX: BANG
HRK!
FX: PKOW PKOW PKOW
!
GLAD I'M WEARIN' ARMOR!
KANG
KLIK

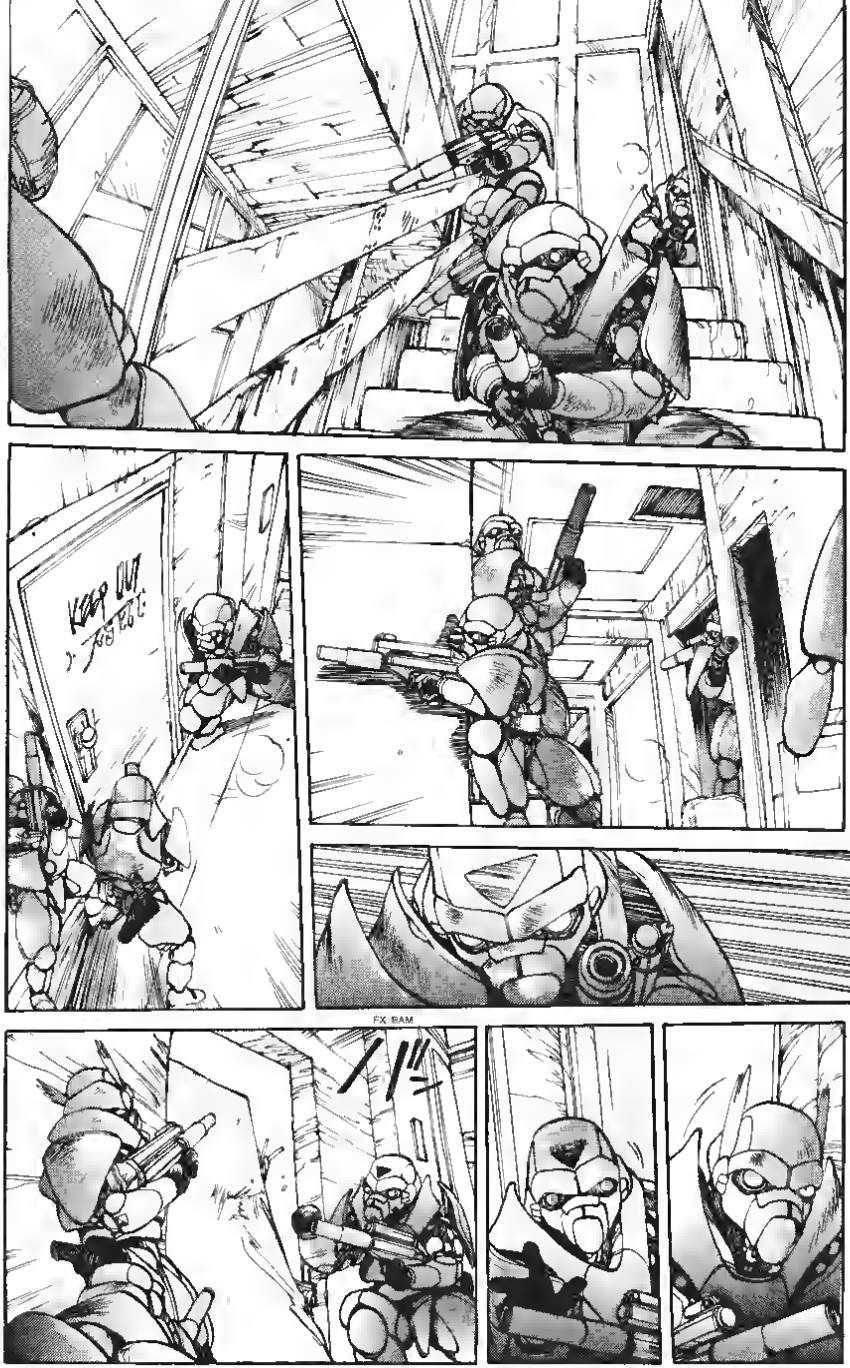
FX. PKOW PKOW
DON'T LOOK AT IT! DON'T TALK!
SH-SHIT! GOD-DAMN... AAH... GODDAMN GOT ME!
HEY! BRING ME THAT MEDKIT, DAMN IT!
HELL-MAN!
HNNG!
110/10
AGGH!
JUST DO SOME-THING, WILL YA!
THE FEMORAL ARTERY AND UPPER SAPHENOUS VEIN ARE BOTH SEVERELY LACER-ATED...LOOKS LIKE THE SHELLS FRAGMENTED INSIDE THE ARMOR.
QUIT LOOKIN AT ME LIKE THAT SCARE ME TO DEATH
AW, JESUS... WEARING ARMOR THAT DON'T PROTECT THE IMPORTANT STUFF IS WORSE THAN A PACK DRILL!
MED-EVAC'S ON THE WAY! JUST HANG IN THERE!
FX. GCHAK
POLICE
WE'LL PROBE STUFF WITH THIS--
NO! WAIT!
OH, GOD NO! ANY THING BUT THAT!
I'M CALLING IN DOCTOR MAT-THEW...
"BARGAIN BOOBY TRAPS, INC." HUH?
DIRECT TO THE CONSUMER...

Pack drill: military punishment of gearing up and walking to and fro. A pack animal drill.

*FX FWAK
*FX WHKOOM
SPAK!
*FX KRAK KRAK
*FX FRAK *FX GTONK
DON'T WORRY... THE GUY WHO SET THOSE TRAPS IS ABOUT TO "VOLUNTEER" TO DISARM THEM.
MIGHT BE AN AMMO DUMP HERE Y KNOW
WHY DON'T WE USE A FLAME-THROWER?
THOSE GUYS ARE MAKIN' US LOOK LIKE *IDIOTS!*
WHA... WHAT THE *HELL?!* SON OF A *BITCH!!*
SPRAK
YOU'RE A CLEVER BASTARD... THIS AIN'T FAIR, DAMN IT!
PISSES ME OFF...!
CHAK
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, PAL?! OR MAYBE YOU'D RATHER DIE UNDER THAT PILE OF RUBBLE...?

KLAK
NO TRICKS, NOW!
DON'T SHOOT, YOU RUTHLESS SWINE.
FX CLUNK
HEH, HEH!
YOU ARE A CLEVER BASTARD!
YOU JUST GUESSED?!
COME ON, YOU!
SOUND? VIBRATION? YOU SMELL ME? NO WAY...
I PULLED A COMPLETE SYSTEMS SHUTDOWN. HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS THERE?
AND I FIGURED YOU'D WANT TO WATCH YOUR LITTLE SHOW. TAKE HIM AWAY, BOYS.
YES, SIR.
JUST BECAUSE THAT'S THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE...
POLICE

NOTHIN'. THE FROGS HADN'T EVEN HIRED US YET.
WH... WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?
THAT BOOBY TRAP *BOOBY...!*
SOKAKU GOT HIMSELF CAUGHT.
YEAH! AND WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE SOKAKU BEHIND...
NISSUI...
MONEY, WOMEN, BOOZE... DOESN'T MATTER *HOW* WE GET 'EM.
ROKU, NISSUI... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
JEEZ, WE CAN'T *SIT* HERE, GANZ!
RIGHT, THEN. DROP YOUR GEAR, GENTLE-MEN-- LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO OLYM-PUS.
CHAK
I DON'T WANT A SHOOTING MATCH. HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?
MAJORITY RULES...


KEEP OUT
FX: BAM

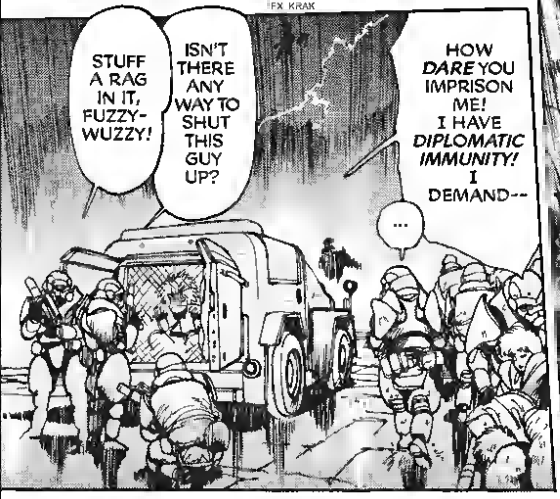
BLIP
AND STEP

"HOSTAGES," HUH?
THERE'RE BOUND TO BE CLAYMORES RIGGED UP SOMEWHERE. LOCATE AND NEUTRAL-IZE.
WE'VE FOUND HOSTAGES IN THE BACK OF C3. NEXT REPORT IN TWO MINUTES.
BIP
Not chicken meat
...
...
MUST BE CHICKENS OR BODYPACK SOURCES. IF THEY WERE BEING RAISED FOR FOOD THEY WOULDN'T HAVE SLEPT WITH THEM.
ALL KINDS OF GOODS IN STOCK, HERE. THEY'VE COVERED ALL THE ANGLES...
IF THEY START EXPLOD-ING, YOU'LL BE REAL UNHAPPY.
CHRIST... I WANT A CAVITY SEARCH ON ALL OF THEM! *QUICK!*
WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS? "ZOMBIE TRAP"...?
CAN YOU TALK? CAN YOU UNDER-STAND ME?
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE... PUT UP YOUR HANDS AND LINE UP AGAINST THE WALL!
HYAAA-!
KYA!
EEK!
EEEK!
FX UWEHHH

NO... THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST SOMEBODY'S LIVING TOYS. THE MOST USEFUL AND EXOTIC FURNITURE OF ALL... USE THEM ANY WAY YOU LIKE, YOUR IMAGINATION, THE LIMIT...
OORIC... WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? A PROSTITUTE FARM OR SOME-THING?
SOMEBODY GO GET SOME BLANKETS. AND A DOCTOR!
LIKE A BLOODY NURSERY IN HERE!
CHAK
IF ANY OF YOU FIND ANYONE WITH SOMETHING INSIDE THEM-- WHITE POWDER SAUSAGES IN THEIR STOMACHS, LIKE THAT-- SING OUT!
Human bombs. Test subjects for controversial experiments. Meat shields more effective than armor. Pets for rich people. Furniture, etc.
HEY! WE GOT A MISCAR-RIAGE HERE!
...MIGHT HAVE BEEN HAPPIER THAT WAY, TOO.
MODERN SLAVERY FOR HIGH SOCIETY...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THOSE KIDS...?
ALL THOSE BIOCHEM WEAPONS THEY USED DURING THE BIG ONE...
IT'S DE-FORMED
AW, SHIT...

DOC MATTHEW CARTED HIM AWAY.
IT'S HELLMARS!

HEY!
C4, C6, PULL OUT!
SAME HERE AS IN OLYMPUS, SEEMS LIKE... PEOPLE ARE THE MOST VALUABLE COMMODITY...
--PICKED UP SEVENTY-TWO KIDS FROM FOUR ROOMS IN THE BASEMENT--
C6, PULL OUT!
NOT LIKE ZURICH...
I FEEL LIKE A GRAVE ROBBER...


FX. KRAK
STUFF A RAG IN IT, FUZZY-WUZZY!
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO SHUT THIS GUY UP?
HOW DARE YOU IMPRISON ME! I HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY! I DEMAND--
...

FX. ZAAA AAA AA
IT'S GONNA BE HELL JUST TEACHING THEM TO TALK. THINK THERE'S ANY HOPE...?
THEY'RE ALL MISSING THEIR FRONT TEETH!

C'MON, MOVE IT, CREEP!
TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES... A BIT LONG.
GOOD.
SQUAD LEADER, THE BUILDING IS CLEAR. ALL SQUADS PULLED OUT.

MAN, TAKE AWAY THE MIRANDA AND THEY SURE DO SPOUT OFF.
YEAH, YEAH. LEMME MAKE A NOTE OF THAT.
THE HOST THAT SUPPORTS YOU PARASITES WILL DIE SOMEDAY, TOO! YOUR NARCISSISTIC FANTASY IS DOOMED!

"GLORY AND AUTHORITY ARE LOST IN DEATH," RIGHT?
THAT FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF HOPE?
YOU GOT IT.
DE GAULLE SAID IT BEFORE... "THERE'S AN END TO EVERYTHING."

YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO TOUCH THEM! HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! THOSE ARE DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL!
HEY!
ZASH
GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY CHILDREN!
*FX: FDD
*FX: SKRANG
HAH?
*FX: FWMP

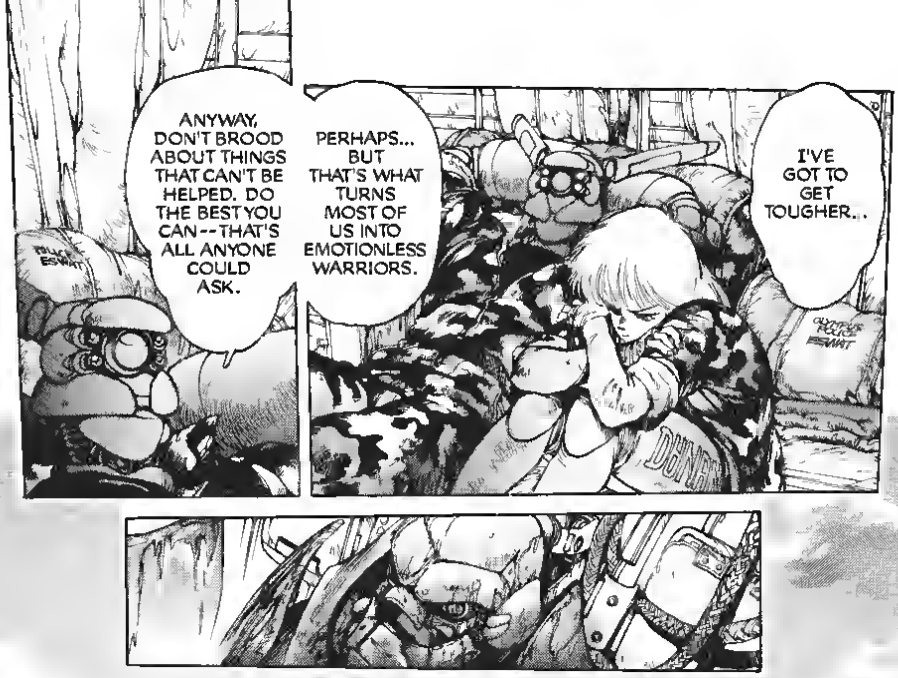
FX: KSSH
CHAK
YOUR CHILDREN?! THE HELL THEY ARE!!
WHAT THE F--!!
YOU GODDAMN MORON! WHAT THE HELL DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING?!
IF YOU WERE GOING TO "SLUG" HIM, USE A SHOTGUN, HUH?!
NOW, NO...WE CAN'T LET JUST ANYBODY BUST UP OUR PET RAT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOOT HIM WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE?!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO LET HIM GO ANYWAY!
Due to diplomatic immunity
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?!
DIPLOMATIC CONSIDERATIONS, OF COURSE. NOW DON'T YOU EVER SAY THAT KIND OF THING AGAIN--WE'RE POLICE, UNDER-STAND?!
DEUNAN DID WHAT?! NOT AGAIN...
COULD BE BAD NEWS...

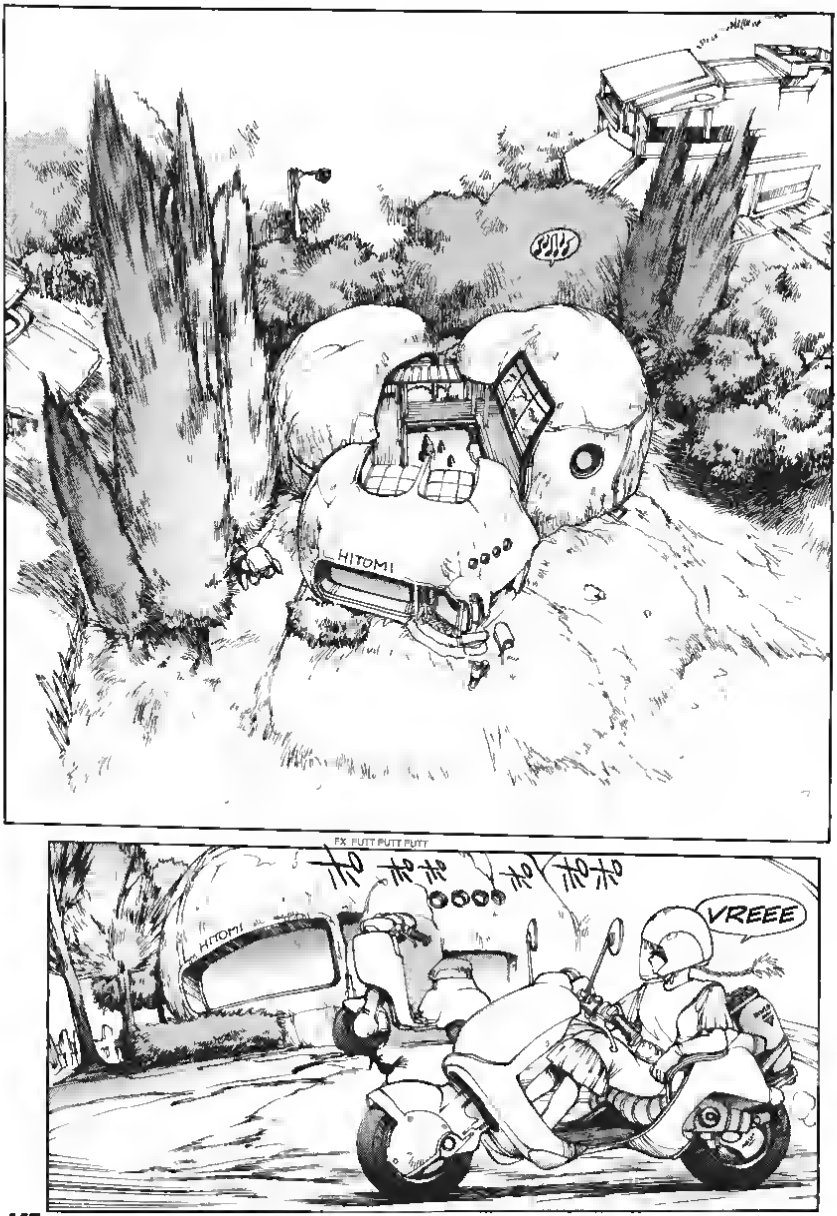
RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED! HE--
I...HE... ER, HE TRIED TO STEAL MY GUN! THAT'S IT-- MY GUN!
WHAT ABOUT HER?
EXPLAIN THIS!
ASSAULT IS WHAT'S GOING ON HERE! AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE--THEY THREATENED TO SHOOT ME!
FX KSSSHHH
WHO DO YOU PEOPLE THINK YOU MMPH!
YES, SIR!
REPORT TO ME AFTER-WARD!
IT'S BECAUSE OF BASTARDS LIKE YOU--
THAT'S ENOUGH!
FX KSSSHHH
WELL?! ANSWER ME!
YOU GOT IT, SOL-DIER?!
BUT, SIR... I...
EHEH.. EH...
AND YOU-- OPEN YOUR VISOR!
YES, SIR... I MEAN NO, SIR...
IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN, I'LL SEE THAT YOU SPEND THE REST OF YOUR CAREER GUARDING THE LIBYAN EMBASSY!
NEARLY LOST YOUR GUN, HMM? CAN'T YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN PROPERTY?!

ゴォォォ
FX: HROMMM
MAN, THAT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE!
URS
NOW THAT WE'VE SHOT DOWN FRANCE THE MEXICAN ROUTE WILL SOAR IN VALUE
THE PHILLIPPINES AND HONG KONG ARE UP TO POSEIDON, NOT US...
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! CAN'T YOU THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE?!
HEY, HEY, IT'S ALL RIGHT! LOOK, THERE'S THIS BLONDE CHICK...
SO, DORIC, BABY, PICK YOU UP AT EIGHT?
SURE
...
DOC! HOW'S HELL-MAN?
DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WOKE ME UP FOR A SCRATCH LIKE THAT!
YOU CAN'T GIVE SOMEONE A CYBORG LEG JUST LIKE *THAT*--IT'D TEAR OUT WHEN THEY TRY TO RUN. YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED A *REGULAR* DOCTOR!
DAMNFOOL SOLDIERS

YOU RUN INTO THAT TYPE A LOT WITH COMBAT CYBORGS... OVERPAID AMATEUR JERKS.
TOUGH LUCK GUYS
YOU WERE LUCKY THOSE GUYS AT THE ENTRACE TO C3 WEREN'T PROS.
THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN MEETS THE EYE, SO KEEP YOUR ADVICE TO YOURSELF! IS A CERAMIC ENGINE A BETTER ENGINE WITHOUT THE TURBO?
YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR PARTNERS MORE CAREFULLY. SHE IS NOT A GOOD COMPONENT.
ONLY THE DEAD NEVER DIE, FANG.
SOMEDAY SHE WILL GET IN YOUR WAY. DEATH WILL COME CALLING FOR YOU, THROUGH HER.
BUT WE *NEED* "COMPONENTS" LIKE HER. THE ODD PIECE OUT IN THE JIGSAW PUZZLE, THE VARIABLE PART. A UNIT STRUCTURED LIKE A SIMPLE METALLIC CRYSTAL HAS NO FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO THE UNEXPECTED.
CAN'T HAVE A REACTION WITHOUT A CATALYST.
SURE, IT'S TOUGH WORK FOR SOMONE HER AGE...
Identified Patient

EVEN THE CODE OF HAMMURABI REQUIRES THAT THE LAW APPLY EQUALLY TO ALL.
THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS? THAT IS THE FAVORED LOGIC OF THE TERRORIST.
IF SHE HADN'T BEEN THERE, I'D BE DISMANTLED NOW AND THOSE BASTARDS'D BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
AND CAN'T HAVE CHEMICAL REACTIONS WITHOUT BONDING.
I DO NOT LIKE THE ONES THAT PLAY HERO. IT INTERFERES WITH SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.
The concept of unification no longer stands to reason. Diversity of species is to Gaia what diversity of cellular tissue is to an organism etc
WHEN WE'RE NOT TOGETHER YEAH.
ARE YOU CERTAIN SHE'S NOT SIMPLY ENJOYING THE ADRENALINE AND CORTISOL?
THAT'S ALL.
"THE TOOL THAT'S TOO HARD TO USE." HMM?
IT'S NOT THAT... IT'S JUST THAT SHE KNOWS THE CYBORG "ME" BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AROUND.
SOMEDAY YOU'LL MOVE INTO THE WRONG SQUARE AND FIND YOURSELF IN CHECKMATE. YOU HAVE THE SHAPE OF A CYBORG, BUT YOU ARE JUST A HUMAN--NOT A GOOD TOOL.
IS HE LISTENING?
ZZZ
JEEZ, WHAT STINKS?
ZZZ


ANYWAY, DON'T BROOD ABOUT THINGS THAT CAN'T BE HELPED. DO THE BEST YOU CAN--THAT'S ALL ANYONE COULD ASK.
PERHAPS... BUT THAT'S WHAT TURNS MOST OF US INTO EMOTIONLESS WARRIORS.
I'VE GOT TO GET TOUGHER...


HITOM!
FX: PUTT PUTT PUTT
HITOM!
VREEE

?
HITOMI! IS ANYBODY HOME?
*FX GARAK
HA?
YES, TODAY I AM IN A *MOST* FOUL MOOD!
...
YOUR STRAITJACKET LOGIC GIVES ME A *PAIN*, GAVILOV--OH! SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE THAT DAMNED RUSSIAN AGAIN!
EXCUSE ME...
YES! YES! SOME-THING IS MOST WRONG CER-TAINLY!
SOME-THING WRONG...?

BIT OF DOMESTIC DIS-HARMONY, HMM?
HI, DEUNAN!
*FX TAKKA TAKKA
*FX BEEP
*FX TAKKA
PHEW!
*FX KCHAK
WE NEED SOME KIND OF *INTERME-DIARY...*
WHITE RUSSIANS AND BLACK AFRICANS. IT'S TOO MUCH!
THEY WERE AT IT ALL MORNING! AT LEAST I'LL BE ABLE TO REACH AN ALPHA STATE NOW.
BEEP
HMPH! OH, SURE--AND *I'VE* GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD, RIGHT?
COULD YOU AT LEAST *TRY*? I'VE REALLY GOT MY HANDS FULL CHECKING THE DATA ON ARTEMIS.
I DON'T KNOW...YOU ALL LOOK ALIKE TO ME. ANYWAY, IS THAT WHY YOU CALLED IN "MISS CAFÉ AU LAIT"... MEANING *ME?*

ARTEMIS, DEAR. SHE'S THE VIP WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE LIVING HERE WITH ME. A REAL WOLFGIRL!
SO WHO'S THIS "ARTEMIA"?
Incidentally, artemia are brine shrimp. Also known as sea monkeys.
!
ANYWAY, SHE'S GONE MISSING. BUT THEY SAY SHE'S GOT CAT EYES AND EARS LIKE A MULE DEER. SO HOW LONG CAN SHE HIDE OUT LOOKING LIKE THAT, HMM?
HEH HEH
QUITE A CREATURE... HER HAIR CHANGES COLOR TO SHIELD HER AGAINST ULTRAVIOLET. IT EVEN CHANGES LENGTH ACCORDING TO CLIMATE TO MAINTAIN HER BODY TEMPERATURE.
Bonk: Introduction to Molecular Design
IN-HOUSE PRODUCTION, MM? NOT CONTRIBUTING MUCH TO EVOLUTION, IS SHE?
NEED A MIX OF GENES FOR IMPROVEMENT
?
WOW! LOOK AT THIS--WITHOUT LIFE-EXTENSION PROCESSING, SHE AGES FIVE TIMES FASTER THAN NORMAL! AND GET THIS-- SHE CAN CLONE HERSELF!

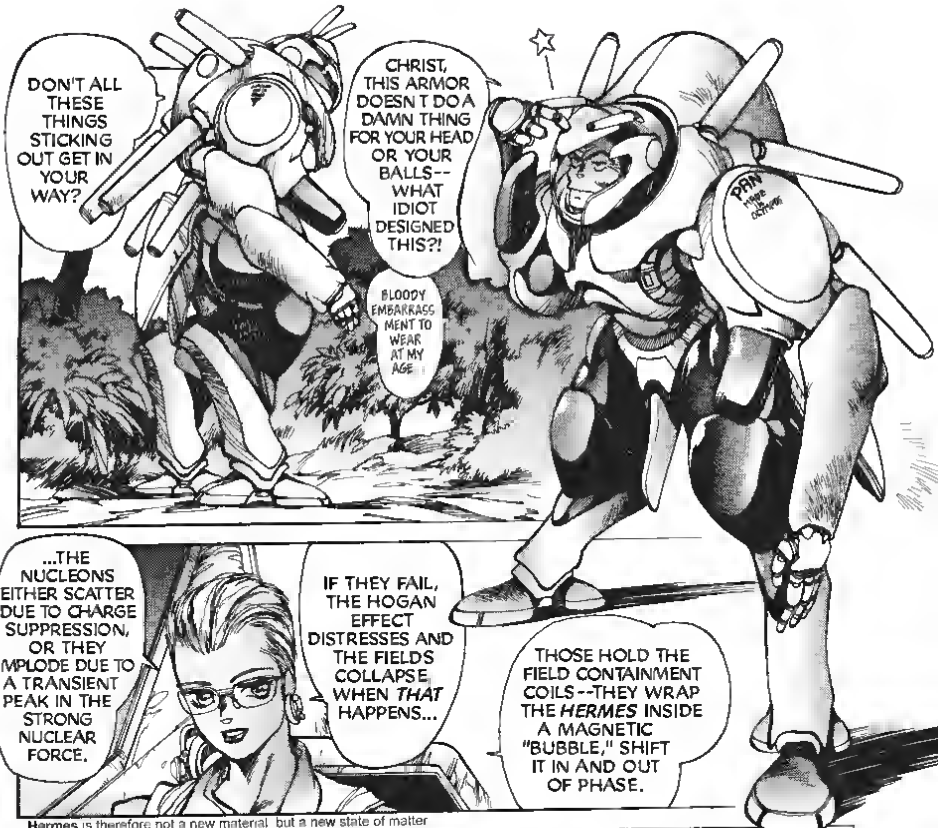
EVEN PLANTS AVOID SELF-POLLINATION...
EVOLUTION WILL LEAVE HER BEHIND
ARTEMIS MAY BE CHANGING ALL THE TIME, BUT SHE'S A DEAD END. A ONE-WOMAN SHOW.
PARTHENOGENESIS IS OVERWHELMINGLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR SHEER REPLICATION. BUT EVEN IF IT'S GOOD FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANISMS, THE SPECIES AS A WHOLE CAN'T KEEP UP WITH AN EVOLVING ENVIRONMENT.
....
IN ORDER TO PRESERVE LEEWAY FOR CHANGE, YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO RENEW...
MEGAERA? WOULD YOU *PLEASE* STOP BEING SO GLOOMY?!
THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN NINE BIOROID SUICIDES JUST THIS WEEK. THE AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARING TO OPEN AN INVESTIGATION, AND--
AND WHAT IS, IS EVERY-THING!
EVERY-THING IS AS IT IS.
AND HERE I CALLED YOU BE-CAUSE I WAS SO BUSY ...!
OH, YEAH! I BROUGHT THE SAMPLES FOR OUR "CHOCO-LATE PARTY"... HAVE A BITE!
WELL, LIKE I SAID, YOU ALL LOOK ALIKE TO ME!
GIMME GIMME!
SHE'S A MEMBER OF *EUMENIDES*-- A GENUINE COMBAT CYBORG! SHE'S ONE OF MISS MERAN-POUS'S FRIENDS...
STUB-BORN AS A BRICK, TOO.

OLYMPUS: HAEROPOLIS PARK
?
?
FROWR?
:HAH:
*KRIK
*KRIK
*POP
:YAAWN:
*FX. STRETCH
*FX. POP
*FX. POP
*FX. KRIK
HMM
NO HOME POACHING

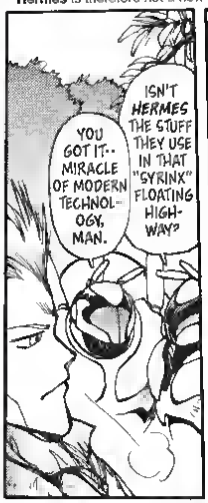
*WHST
*WHST
*ZZZZ
*FX BZZBZZT
BLEAGH!
MNCH MNCH
ブブブブー
*FX VUOOON
HRK! SYTI! BLEH!
*FX SKREEEK
キキキ
(KYU)

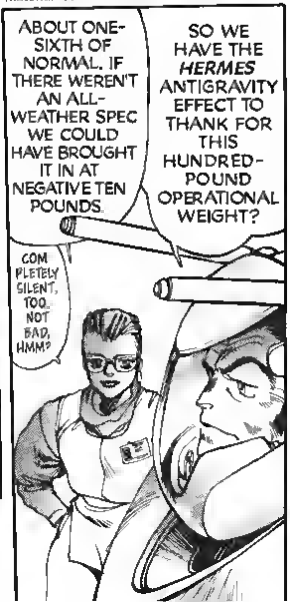
BTAM
THAT TIME WE JUMPED OFF THE PROPA-GANDA TRUCK IN JORDAN. REMEMBER? BUSTED OUR LEGS...
HEY, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE GOT A VACATION?
SHIT, WE ONLY GOT FOUR DAYS!
BTAM
RNO 6WDI
I'VE GOT TO WATER THE VIOLETS IN MY BACKYARD... I'M WORKING LIKE A DAMNED BIOROID THESE DAYS.
HEY, IT'S A FINE TRADITION TO WORK PEOPLE LIKE MACHINES... NO ROOM FOR CHANGE THERE, PAL.
CARCASSES OF SMALL ANIMALS, FOR EXAMPLE. BUT THEY COULD JUST BE DECOYS. I DON'T REMEMBER ASKING FOR REINFORCE-MENTS.
NO FEEL OF HER AT ALL...
Cut the Gordian knot
WE'VE FOUND A NUMBER OF SIGNS.
FOUND ARTEMIS FOR US?
HOWDY, PARDNERS... HOW'S IT HANGIN'...?
THE WHOLE PARK IS HER HUNTING GROUND.

TWO "MAY QUEENS" IN THE BACK. SIGN FOR THEM, PLEASE.
da.
GOT OUR LANDMATES FOR US?
WHAT THE HELL? YOU'VE TAKEN OFF THE ANTI-PERSONNEL ULTRASOUND TUBES! WELL, THEY TAKE A WHILE TO COOL, ANYWAY...
MY NIGHTS AREN'T FREE I HAVE CHILDREN.
BEEP
BEEP
C'MON DARLIN' WHY NOT?
FX: VNNNN
...
STRICTLY "CODE OF HAMMU-RABI," HMM?
HEY, WE'LL LET YOU GUYS ARREST HER AND BRING HER IN--LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS, RIGHT?
FX: KSBHHHHH
HEH, HEH!

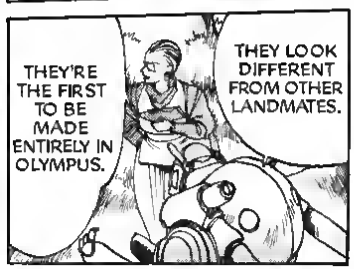

DON'T ALL THESE THINGS STICKING OUT GET IN YOUR WAY?
CHRIST, THIS ARMOR DOESN'T DO A DAMN THING FOR YOUR HEAD OR YOUR BALLS--WHAT IDIOT DESIGNED THIS?!
BLOODY EMBARRASSMENT TO WEAR AT MY AGE!
...THE NUCLEONS EITHER SCATTER DUE TO CHARGE SUPPRESSION, OR THEY IMPLODE DUE TO A TRANSIENT PEAK IN THE STRONG NUCLEAR FORCE.
IF THEY FAIL, THE HOGAN EFFECT DISTRESSES AND THE FIELDS COLLAPSE WHEN *THAT* HAPPENS...
THOSE HOLD THE FIELD CONTAINMENT COILS--THEY WRAP THE *HERMES* INSIDE A MAGNETIC "BUBBLE," SHIFT IT IN AND OUT OF PHASE.

Hermes is therefore not a new material but a new state of matter




ABOUT ONE-SIXTH OF NORMAL. IF THERE WEREN'T AN ALL-WEATHER SPEC WE COULD HAVE BROUGHT IT IN AT NEGATIVE TEN POUNDS.
SO WE HAVE THE *HERMES* ANTIGRAVITY EFFECT TO THANK FOR THIS HUNDRED-POUND OPERATIONAL WEIGHT?
COMPLETELY SILENT, TOO. NOT BAD, HMM?

NOT THAT GUY WHO HAD TO GO TO HELL AND RESCUE SOMEONE? THAT'S JUST *GODDAMN GREAT!*
YOU'RE WEARING AN UPDATED VERSION, AN *"ORPHEUS."*



*FX. SKRCH SKRCH SKRCH
YOU THINK YOU'LL GET CLOSE TO HER STINKING OF HYDRAULIC FLUID?
HUH?
FX. FLING FLING
I'LL JAM SOME LEAVES UNDER HERE, TOO...
...
I... I WAXED THEM TWICE OOHHH...
REST HOUSE

Most of the earth under Olympus has been reinforced to support the arcology blocks. Those gaps which remain tend to be damper than average even when they have good drainage. However they are often rich environments for life... hence parks such as this

*FX. CAW CAW CAW
WE'RE BOUND TO FIND FOOTPRINTS, THOUGH.
BUT WHICH ONE...
SHE MAY BE HANGIN' OUT ON SOME TREE BRANCH...
BETTER TO APPROACH FROM DOWN-WIND.
WHY DIDN'T YOU RECON THE AREA FROM A PARASAIL?
GOTTA TAKE A LEAK...
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES... THE CRIME IN THOSE OLD PARKS... THE CALL OF NATURE...
IF THIS WAS CENTRAL PARK, WE COULDN'T WALK ON THE GRASS...
SHE'S ALTER-NATING BETWEEN WALKING AND BRACHI-ATING.
Se estan perdiendo las costumbres antiguas

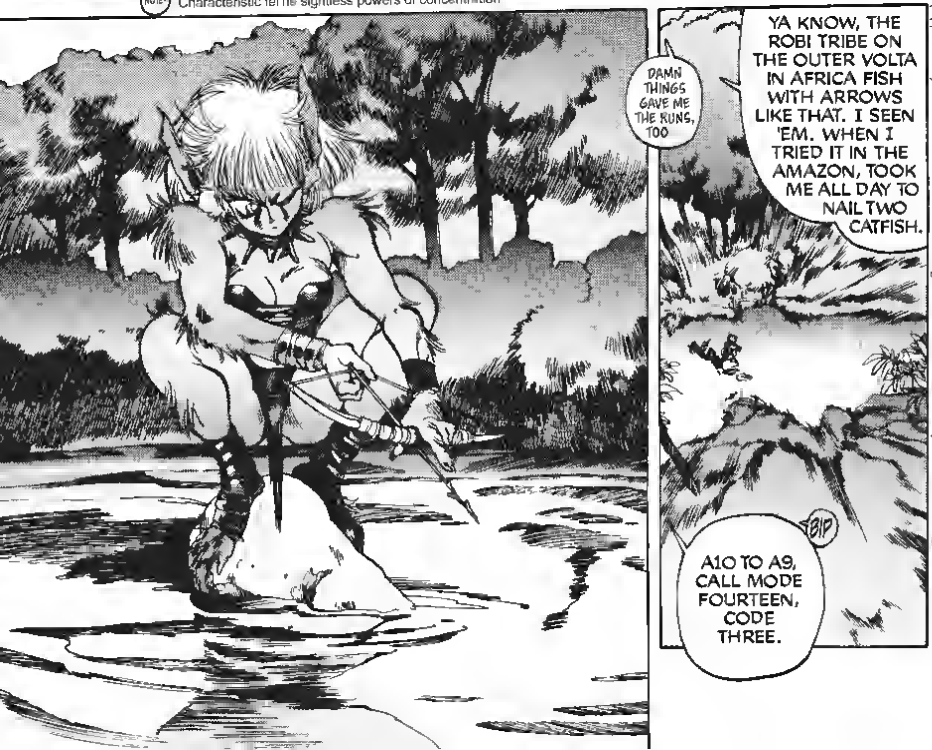
SHOULDN'T HAVE RESTRICTIONS IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
OFFICIALLY, THIS AREA IS OFF LIMITS TO VEHICLES. MULTI-LEGGED WALKERS ARE ACCEPTABLE.
A TASTE OF ANCIENT DAYS
DON'T TOUCH --!!
LOOK AT THIS CAPYBARA CARCASS... CHRIST, WHAT A STOMACH SHE'S GOT!
WE'RE PAST THE NESTING AREA. IF SHE'S LEFT ANY BOOBY TRAPS, THEY'LL BE AT HER DEN IN THE WATER.

FX: VWIP VWIP VW P VW P VWIP VWIP
FX: CAW CAW CAW CAW CAW CAW CAW CAW
*FX: FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
DAMN!
FX: FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

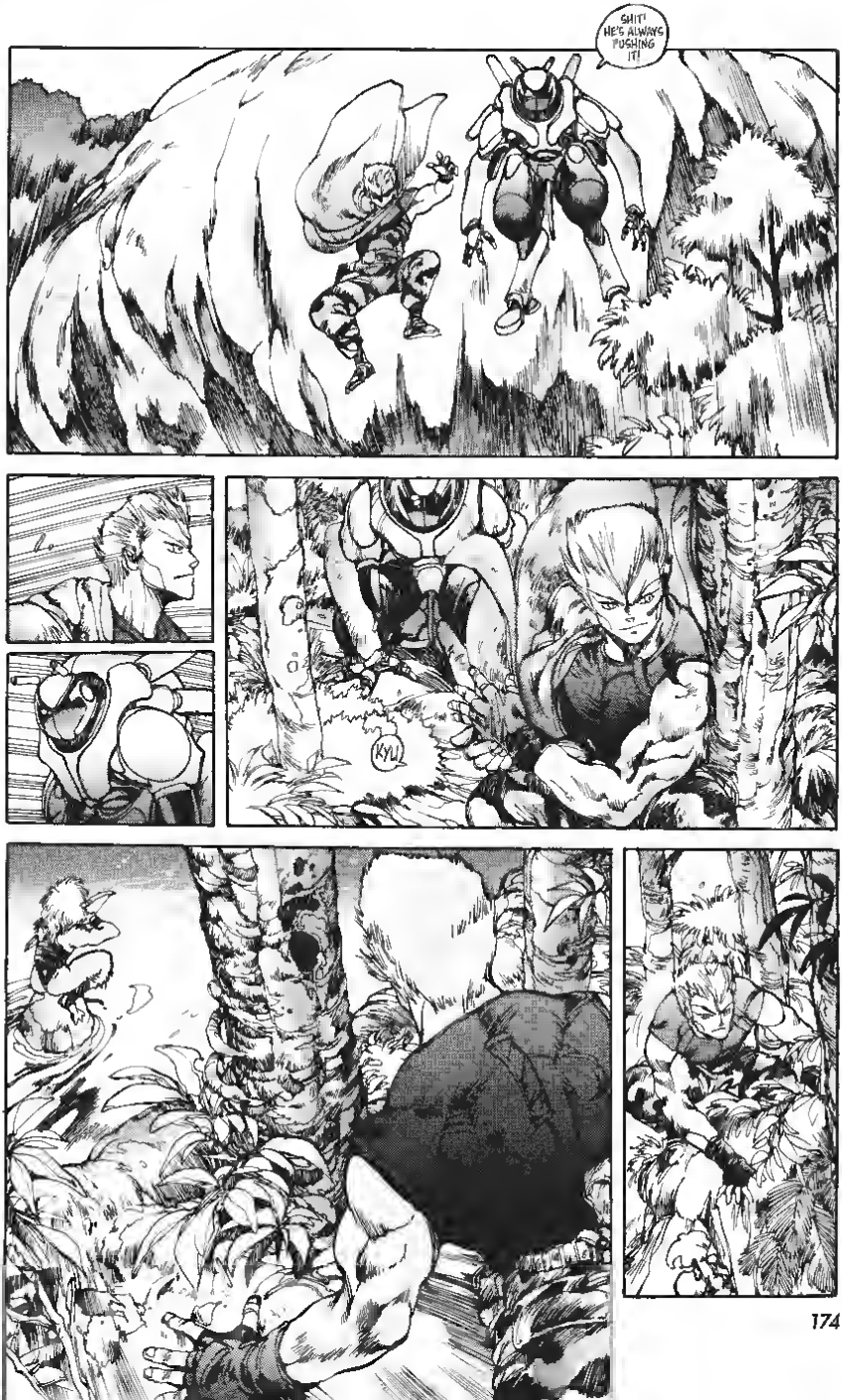
*FX. FLAP FLAP FLAP
A9 TO A10, CALL MODE SEVEN-TEEN!
THAT "ALARM" SHOULD FLUSH HER-- TIME TO SPREAD THE NET.
BETTER CONSIDER EVERY CARCASS YOU FIND AROUND HERE TO BE *LIVING*.
A10, ROGER.
HOW DID YOU KNOW--
SHE USED SOME CHEMI-CAL TO STABILIZE THE CARCASS-- NO FLIES.
I DIDN'T NOTICE..
THE WAY YOU'RE SET UP, EVEN A GHILLIE SUIT WOULDN'T DO YOU ANY GOOD FOR CAMO. YOU GO UNDERWATER, I'LL PLAY THE OWL.

NOW WHAT'S WRONG? REALLY, MATRIX, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU...?
YIKE! YIKE!
HMPH!
YOU ALWAYS GO THAT WAY ON YOUR WALKS... I WONDER IF THE OLSONS GOT A NEW WATCHDOG?
DAMN SUIT WON'T SQUAT!
SHE'S COVERED HERSELF IN ALL DIRECTIONS--CAN HEAR AN INTRUDER'S FOOTSTEPS--ISN'T BOTHERED BY INSECTS AND SMALL ANIMALS WHEN SHE'S SLEEPING.
AND SHE'S A REGULAR GOURMET!
IT'S A CATCHPOOL FOR THE BREEZE... BRINGS HER ALL THE SMELLS OFF THE FOREST.
JUDGING FROM THE TRACE HEAT SIGNATURE ON THAT BEDDING, SHE CAN'T BE FAR AWAY.

NOTE! Charactenstic fel ne sightless powers of concentration


DAMN THINGS GAVE ME THE RUNS, TOO
YA KNOW, THE ROBI TRIBE ON THE OUTER VOLTA IN AFRICA FISH WITH ARROWS LIKE THAT. I SEEN 'EM. WHEN I TRIED IT IN THE AMAZON, TOOK ME ALL DAY TO NAIL TWO CATFISH.
BIP
A10 TO A9, CALL MODE FOURTEEN, CODE THREE.

(Upper volta) northern côte d'ivoire ww.sturm.ghana a landlocked country in western africa


SHIT! HE'S ALWAYS PUSHING IT!
KYU

HAH!
FX FTANGG
ユン！チボン。
FX KRLSSH
*FX SPSH
FX WRAKK
ゴキ…
HRNK!
!
ビボボ
FX BLGOSH

FX: KBLOOSH
OH NO!
IT'S LEAKING!
OH, FRIGGIN' GREAT!!
THIS MOTHER'S JAMMED UP ON ME! MOVE, YOU BASTARD!
GOD-DAMN IT! WHAT THE F--?!
FX: ZABAA
HAHH!
KRRK
KRRK
MOVE! MOVE!
JESUS, WHAT A GOD-DAMN JOKE!
HEY!

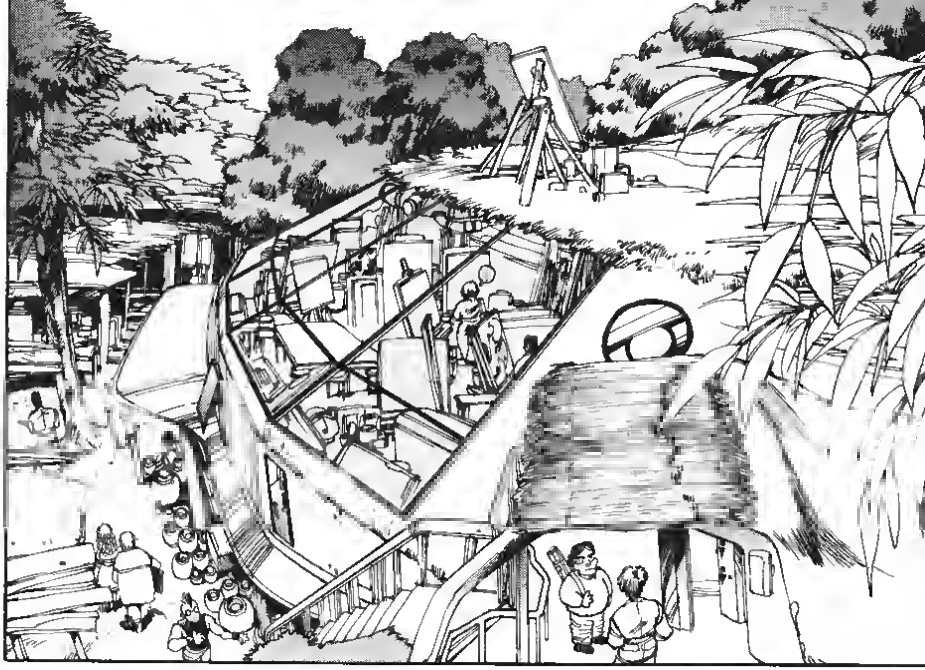
*FX SHU SHU
OOPS.
!
FX THUK THUK
!
*FX SHFF
COVER ME!!
*FX SPLASH
HELP ME, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!
I M SINKING--- GLURG
HEAD HER OFF!

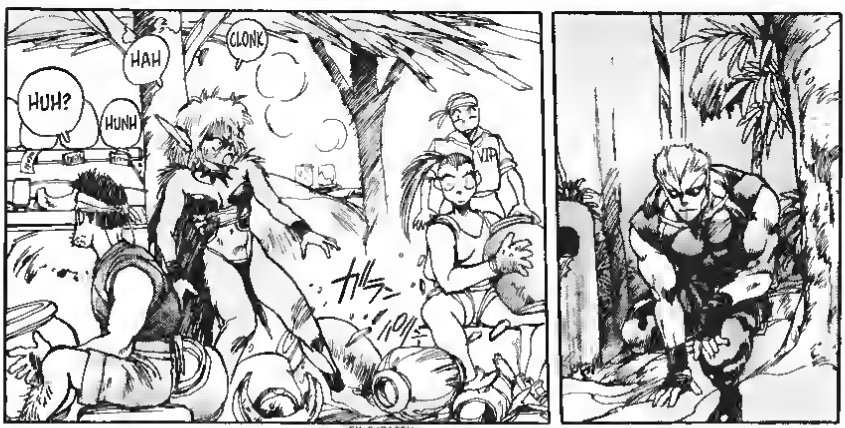
CUT YOUR COIL POWER! YOUR FULL WEIGHT OUGHT TO BREAK YOU LOOSE!
DON'T GIVE UP! I'LL GET YOU OUT!
....
WELL... BETTER THAN A FRENCH SEWER FULL OF SHIT...
SO I GODDAMN *DROWN*...? WHAT A FARCE...
*FX PL P FLIP PL PP
*FX TWITCH
ビクン!!
.....!
.....!
I... I CAN'T BREATHE...
....

*FWA
HA!
HA!
GII
!?

*FX: FTANGG
FX: WHSST

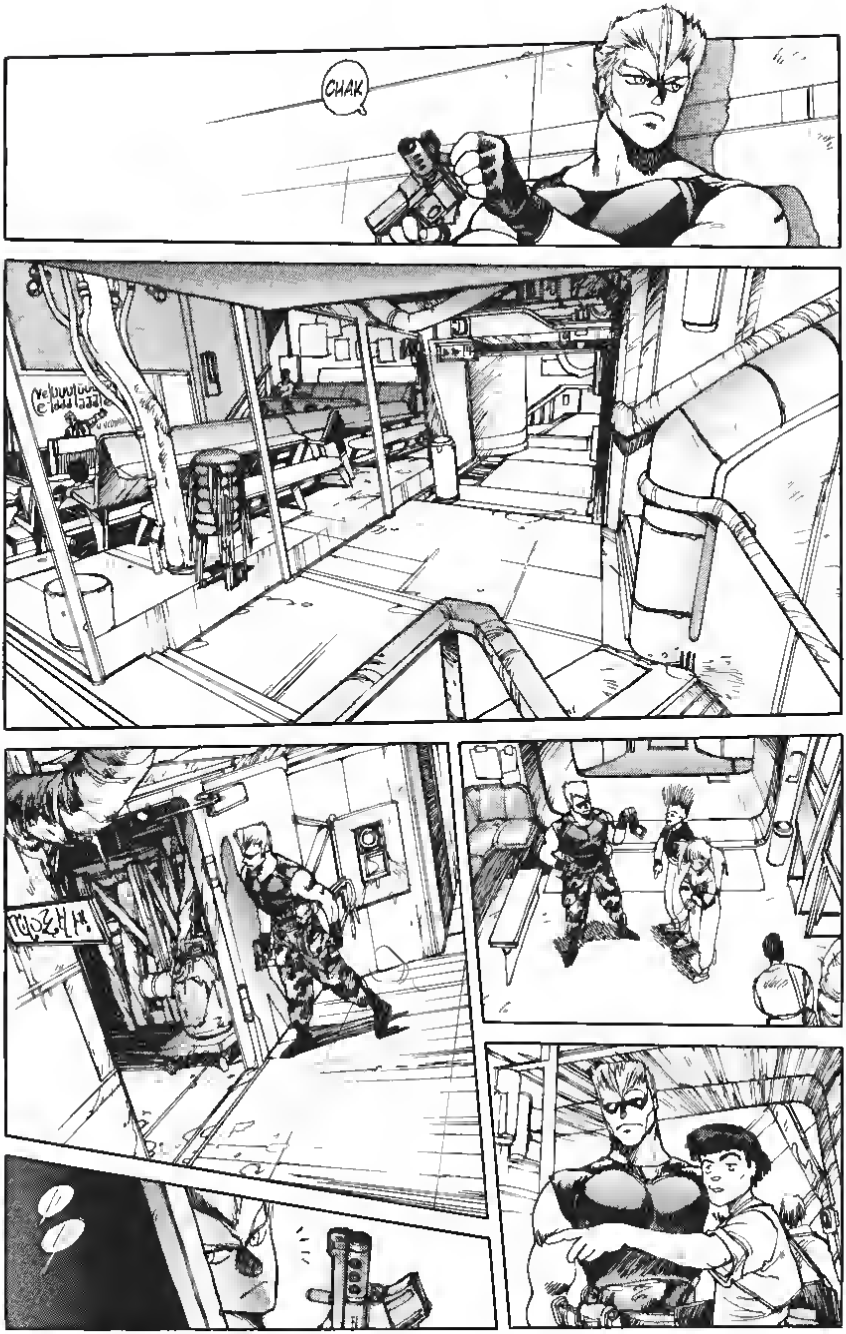
TING
FX WHSSH
SOME-THING FUNNY IS GOING ON HERE...
SHE'S WILLING TO KILL HER OWN KIND TO GET AWAY?! *WHY?!*
A BIOROID SHOOTING AT ANOTHER *BIOROID?!*
SHE MUST HAVE REALIZED AT FIRST GLANCE THAT WE'RE THE SAME SPECIES!




HAH
CLONK
HUH?
HUNH
VIP
FX SKRASSH

ALWAYS SHE IS THIS WAY!
YAHN DANGEROUS, Y'KNOW
WANT TO TRY A SALT GLAZE ON THE NEXT BATCH?
I'M GOIN' TO THE ART SUPPLY SHOP— ANYBODY NEED ANYTHIN'?

EEK!
OOH! STOP THAT JUST PAINT ME!
JEEZ, CALM DOWN!
HEY! IT'S READY!
?!
EXIT
GYPSUM!


CHAK

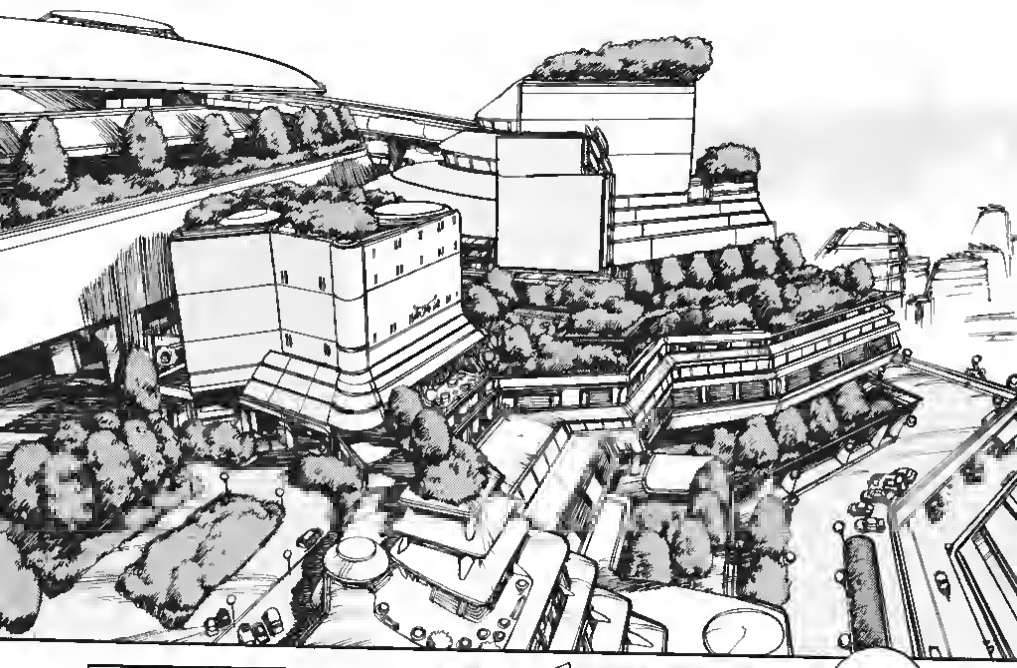
FAPO
FX_KRAK KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
!
HUHN
HAHN

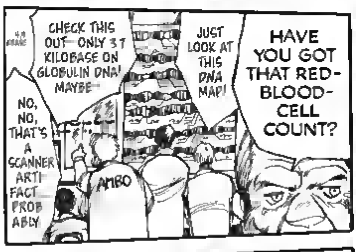
SFX: SKRAK
YOU COATED YOURSELF WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT WOULD DO TO YOU?
PLASTER..?
HISS!
GRR...!
...AND WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT?!
YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER BIOROID, AN OLYMPUS SLAVE DOLL! YOU WERE BUILT TO SERVE HUMANS...
URRG!
YOU THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM YOURSELF?!
EVEN IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND OUR LANGUAGE, YOU OUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THIS--
KRAK
WRITHE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

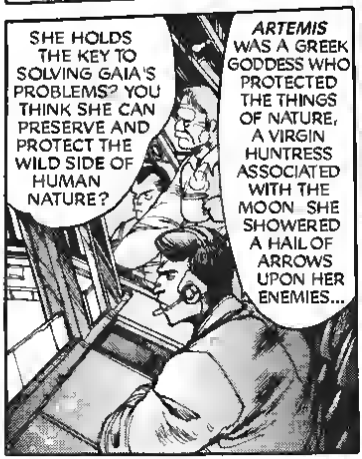
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD PRETEND TO BE A STATUE AND HIDE FOREVER? LIFE ISN'T SO EASY...
PTSS
YOU'RE A *BIOROID*-- DO YOUR DUTY!
UNHH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU NEED ANY HELP?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT...

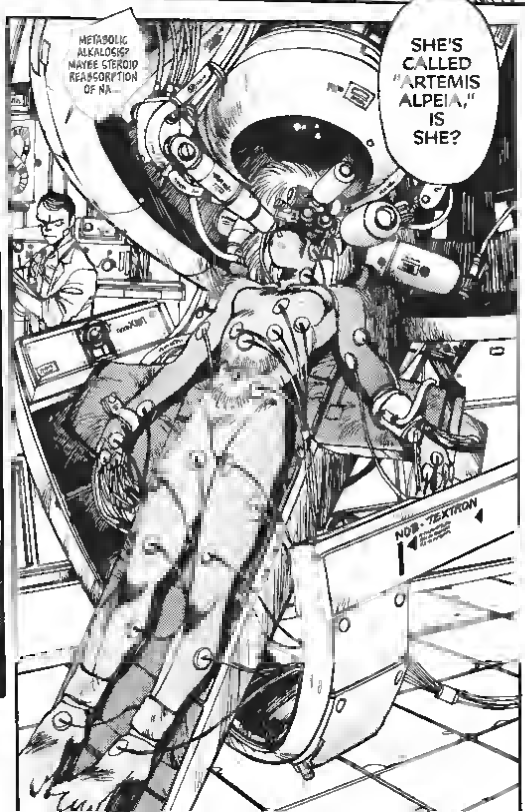
FX: WHOO
NO DYING WITHOUT PERMIS-SION!
MOVE YOURSELF, YOU FOOL!! YOUR SYSTEMS ARE FREEZING UP!
!
IF WE CAN REVITALIZE YOUR CELLULAR FUNC-TIONS, YOU'LL STILL PULL THROUGH!

FX FDD
ROWRR!
I'M GOING TO INJECT YOU WITH KRONOXIN T5 AND TERMINATE YOUR LIFE-EXTENSION CYCLE. PERMISSION?
GUH... GRANTED...
Life-extension cannot be terminated without the individual's consent
YOU BASTARD! CAN'T YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR PARTNER AND SOME KIND OF MACHINE?!
I'LL HAVE TO CUT OUT EIGHT OF YOUR ABSORPTION AND FILTRATION IMPLANTS.
ONCE THE SEDATIVES TAKE EFFECT, I'M GOING TO CUT INTO YOUR UPPER FILTRATION MEMBRANE AND DRAIN THE POISON.
CAN YOU?!




CHECK THIS OUT— ONLY 37 KILOBASE ON GLOBULIN DNA! MAYBE—
JUST LOOK AT THIS DNA MAP!
HAVE YOU GOT THAT RED-BLOOD-CELL COUNT?
NO, NO, THAT'S A SCANNER ARTI FACT PROB ABLY
AMBO

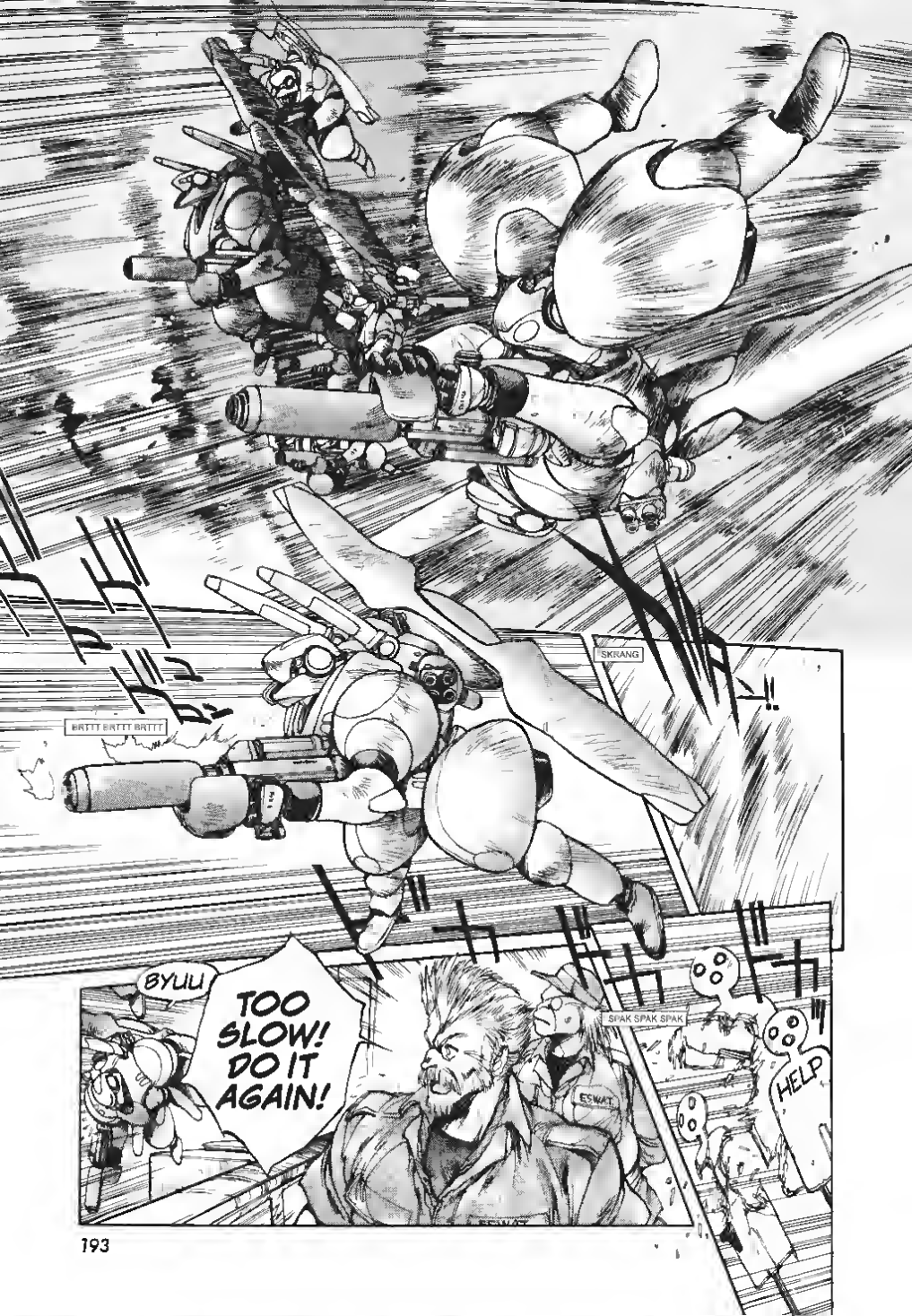

SHE HOLDS THE KEY TO SOLVING GAIA'S PROBLEMS? YOU THINK SHE CAN PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE WILD SIDE OF HUMAN NATURE?
ARTEMIS WAS A GREEK GODDESS WHO PROTECTED THE THINGS OF NATURE, A VIRGIN HUNTRESS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOON. SHE SHOWERED A HAIL OF ARROWS UPON HER ENEMIES...

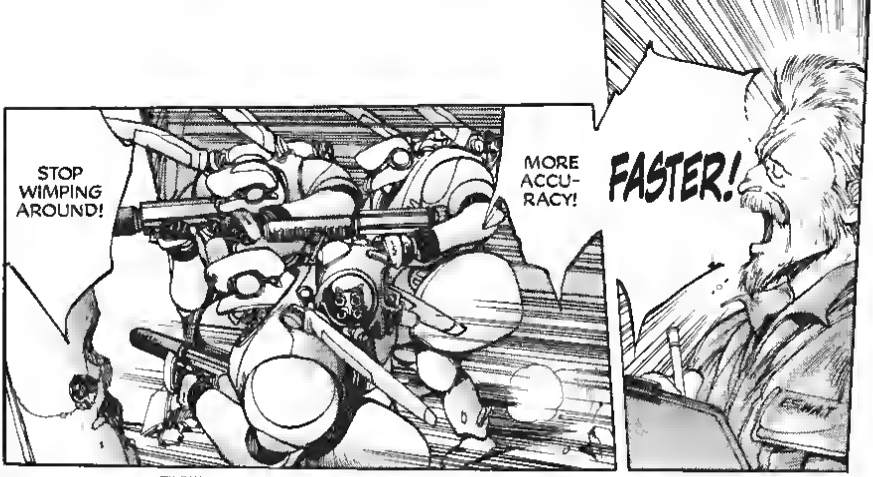


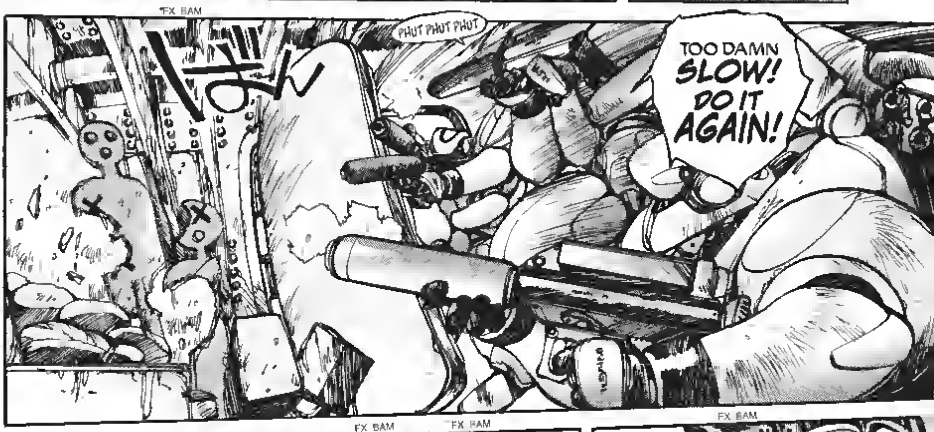
Alpeia was a "white goddess" (c.F. Graves et al.) Also known as Alpina and by many other names

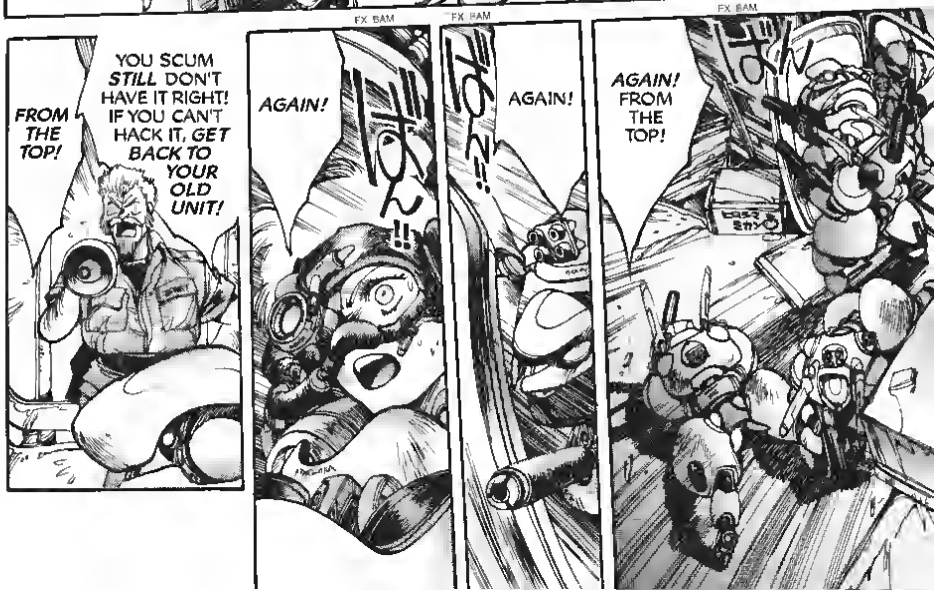
DON'T BE AN IDIOT.
NEXT TIME MAKE HER EASIER TO CATCH.
JUST HOPE NO ONE UPSTAIRS STARTS BURYING US UNDER A PILE OF CONTRADICTORY DIRECTIVES.
THE CODE DISTRIBUTION MAP IS IN TWENTY-EIGHT IMPLANTS. THE CONVERSION PROCESS USES VOICEPRINTS FOR A SPECIFIC MEMORIZED VOCABULARY... IT'S GOING TO TAKE DAYS TO DECODE ALL OF THIS.
FANG...
MORE OF A *SUICIDE*, WASN'T IT? I UNDERSTAND THEY PAID A HELL OF A PILE OF COMPENSATION...
WE LOST ONE OF OUR OWN BECAUSE OF IT.
SHE WAS ONLY ABLE TO PROTECT THIS DATA BECAUSE HER COMBAT RATING IS SO HIGH.
LOOK .. I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY...
NO... IT DOESN'T MATTER.

ZP-O FUSION BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT SPECIES YIELDS COUNTLESS FAILURES AND TRIAL MODELS FOR EACH SUCCESSFUL UNIT. TO COME UP WITH ONE AS WELL BALANCED AS SHE IS, ASSUMING SHE'S A FAKE, WOULD TAKE A TARTARUS-SIZE INSTALLATION.
PERHAPS FROM POSEIDON...
WHAT PROOF DO WE HAVE THAT ARTEMIS ISN'T A FAKE?
EVEN SO, IT WON'T BE READY BY THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.
WE'VE ISOLATED ALL OF GAIA'S B-BLOCK CIRCUITS, AND THEY'RE BEING USED EXCLUSIVELY TO DECODE THE DATA.
I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THAT.
NOW THAT THE DATA'S BEEN RECOVERED, SHE'S BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE COUNCIL.
THAT LITTLE COMMODITY THE CITY PLANNING TEAM WANTED SO BADLY AND COULD NEVER GET ENOUGH OF. *TIME...*
WE STILL HAVE TIME...


BRTTT BRTTT BRTTT
SKRANG
!!
BYUU
TOO SLOW! DO IT AGAIN!
SPAK SPAK SPAK
HELP
ESWAT


STOP WIMPING AROUND!
MORE ACCU-RACY!
FASTER!


FX BAM
PHUT PHUT PHUT
TOO DAMN SLOW! DO IT AGAIN!


FROM THE TOP!
YOU SCUM STILL DON'T HAVE IT RIGHT! IF YOU CAN'T HACK IT, GET BACK TO YOUR OLD UNIT!
FX BAM
AGAIN!
FX BAM
AGAIN!
FX BAM
AGAIN! FROM THE TOP!

OW! DAMMIT, MY THIGHS ARE RUBBED RAW...!
TOLD YOU TO WEAR BOXER SHORTS!
THANK GOD!
GIMME A COLD BEER... GIMME A DOZEN!
MAN, IF I HEAR THAT AGAIN, I'LL PUKE!
AGAAAIN! FROM THE TAAAHP!
SONAE
HAVE ABILITY TO HIGH ORDERS!
OH, NO! I'VE GOT TO GET GOING!
DEUNAN, ISN'T IT TIME FOR BRI TO GET BACK FROM HIS RIOT-CONTROL TOUR IN INDIA?
DON'T TALK LIKE IT WAS NONE OF YOUR WORRY, GIRL! YOU GOT A GUARANTEE YOU'RE GONNA PASS?
CIP!
THEY'RE SAYING NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TRAINEES'LL BE SHIPPED BACK TO THEIR OLD UNITS...
ESWAT
FX ZAAAAA
YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, NOW.
SEE YOU LATER!

...I'M JUST KILLING TIME.
DID I, REALLY? WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY REAL ASSIGN-MENTS ANY-MORE. .
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BURNED OUT THE DAMPERS ON THE GUGES-D?
corin-than
FARE-WELL, DEUNAN.
NO KIDDING? WELL, I'VE GOT TO RUN!
BE SECURE DUL NIGHT
OH, I'VE GOT SOME OTHER THINGS COOKING.
HOW ABOUT YOUR TRAINING, DORIC?
TAKE ME TO THE AIRPORT?
I'LL SEND A REPORT TO BOTH MINIS-TRIES*.
DUM DE DUM

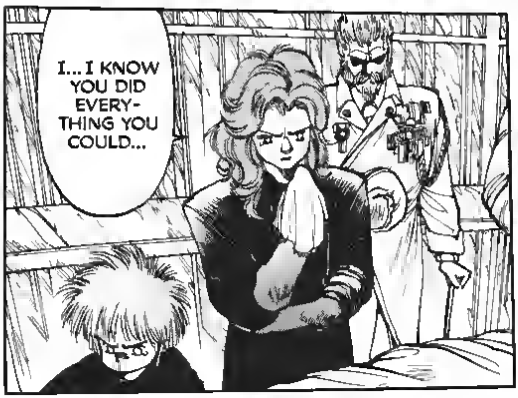
*The Ministry of the Interior Security Bureau on the legislative side (including ESWAT the **CHIRON** intelligence bureau and others) and the FBI international crime unit in the Ministry of Justice on the domestic side

SABRA
BULLSHIT... DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US MERCS IS WHAT IT IS. WELL, THE MIDDLE EAST IS HEATIN' UP AGAIN--NO U.S.-SOVIET DEALS ARE GONNA SOLVE *THAT* ONE.
WE MADE OUT ALL RIGHT... YOU RATHER BE ARRESTED AND CHUCKED IN THE DUNGEON?
SHEE-IT... THEY *STUFFED* MY BOD WITH THOSE DAMNED GADGETS OF THEIRS.. *HRNGGH!*
HEY, BOYS! THAT SWEET YOUNG THING OVER THERE HAS A CYBORG DISMANTLER KEY ON HER--I'M PICKING UP THE SIGNATURE.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT MOSSAD'S UP TO SOMETHING RIGHT HERE IN OLYMPUS. WANT TO MAKE A REALLY BIG PLAY...?
NO WAY, NO MORE NUKES FOR ME...
HOW ABOUT WASTING SOME SIKH FANATICS IN THE PUNJAB? YOU KNOW WHAT THEY PAY YOU IN?
LEMME SEE... SAYS HERE THE ANTI-JAMAHIRIYA REVOLUTIONARY ARMY'S PICKING A FIGHT WITH FRANCE, TOO BAD I'M NOT SEALED AGAINST SAND-STORMS...
WAIT. NO LIQUOR IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES. SCREW THAT!
Jamah nya the L byan government Mossad the Israeli equivalent of the CIA The Shin Bet is the FBI

THANKS.
YO, THERE, LITTLE LADY... YOU'RE LOOKIN' GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT ALIVE!
FX HAHAHA
あはは
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS!
IDIOT!
LOOK, I'VE GOT A LITTLE SOMETHING THAT REALLY TOUCHES OFF A CYBORG. SYSTEMATICALLY BENIGN AND DIRT CHEAP! JUST $150 FOR FIVE CC'S...
FX BLEAHH
Fool with yourself!!
べろ〜ん
YOU'LL WANT IT LATER...! WAIT! A BARGAIN AT $135!
WHAT A BITCH!
I DUNNO. PRETTY FUNNY IF YOU ASK ME!
VWHF VHWF VHWF
*FSHMMM
OLYMPUS POLICE
02

HOW WERE THE RIOTS?
WORST EVER.
KYUN KYUN
BRIAREOS!
OLYMPUS POLICE
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT.
BUT AT LEAST ALL THAT STUPID SQUABBLING'S OVER AT LAST!
I CAN UNDERSTAND RESTRICTING MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY TO KEEP THE REBELS FROM HIRING CYBORG MERCENARIES...
...BUT THEY WERE EVEN CONFISCATING ROBOT LIMBS FROM HANDICAPPED PEOPLE!

THE BARUKI STICK THEIR OAR IN, POSEIDON SELLS WEAPONS TO WHOEVER PAYS... IF THEY'D BROUGHT IN NEUTRAL NEGOTIATORS SOONER, MAYBE IT WOULDN'T HAVE--
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE SIKH AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OR THEIR DAMN WARS OF "INDEPENDENCE"... BUT TO STAMP THE DIGNITY OUT OF HARMLESS CIVILIANS LIKE THAT...
NYAHAHA!
SUCCES!
AIEE!
BANG
SORRY...
JUST LET ME GET CLEANED UP...GET THIS CRAP OFF ME.
I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED, THAT'S ALL. WE HAVEN'T HAD A BREAK IN AGES.

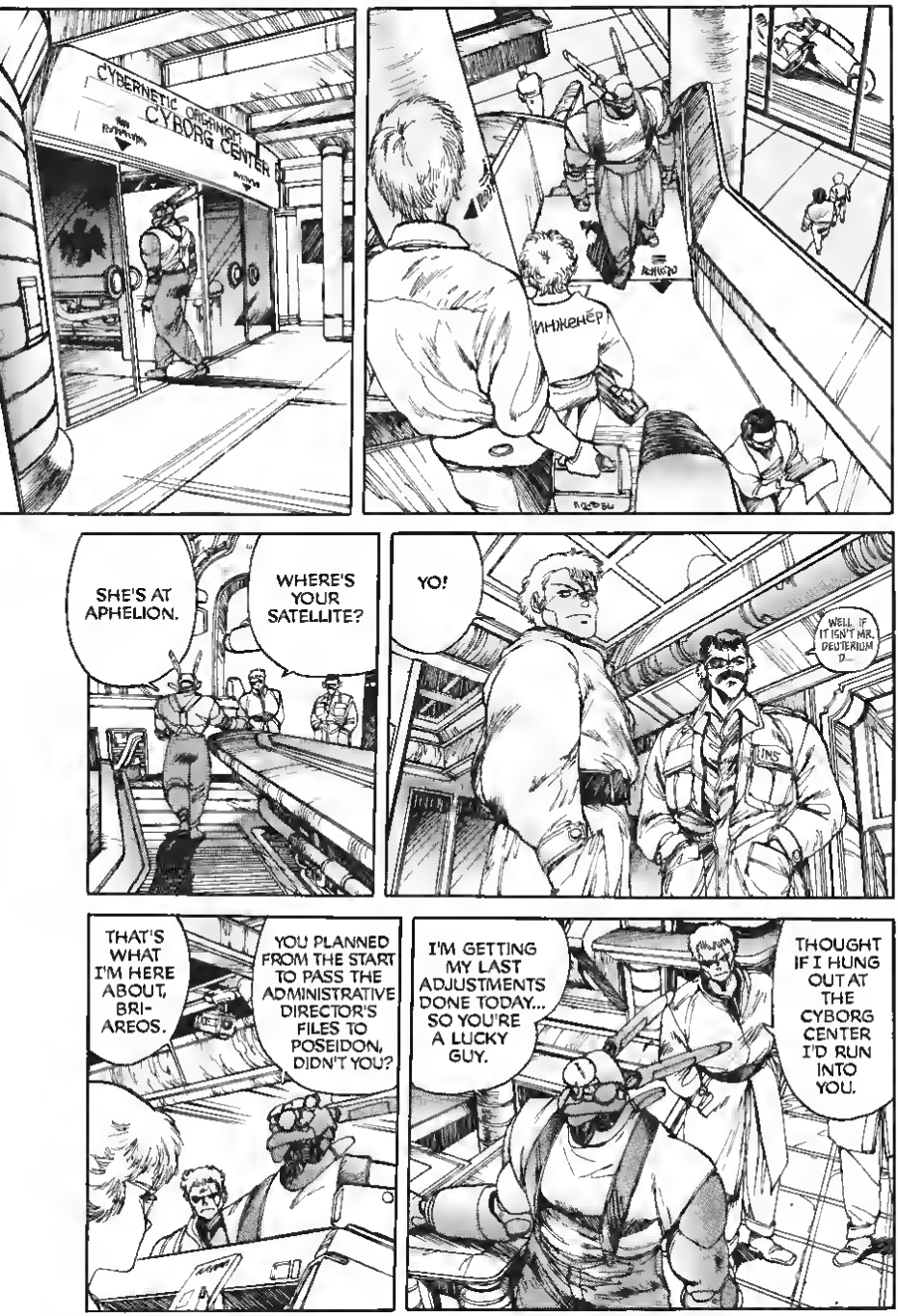

I... I KNOW YOU DID EVERY-THING YOU COULD...

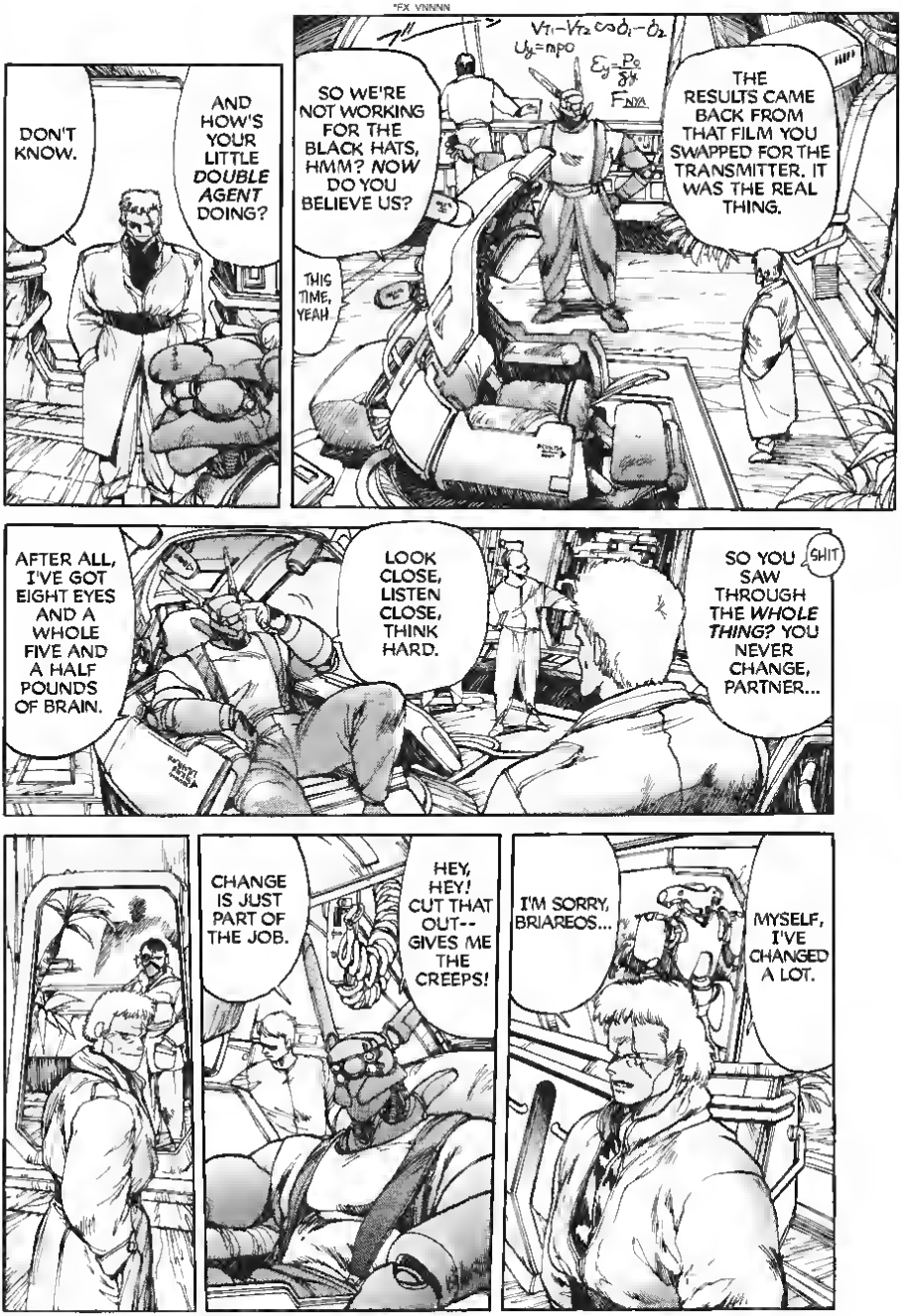
POLICE
ESWAT

LIKE A LITTLE LOST SHEEP...
SO AID NEVER SHOWED UP, THE ASSHOLE.
THAT'S *HIM*, YOU'RE *YOU*.
DON'T SWEAT IT.
I COULD NEVER MAKE A DECISION LIKE THAT...
CHRIST... TO CUT INTO HIS PARTNER LIKE THAT... JUST THINK OF THE DAMNED CONFIDENCE, THE SKILL!
GOTCHA, LOUD AND CLEAR.
...AND WE KICK BACK IN THE BAR.
HE WRITES THE REPORT...
MMM... NICE—

SAY, BRIAREOS...
HMM?
FX VEEEERRRN
FX VEERN
...I JUST CAN'T TRUST *ESWAT.*
WELL...
YOUR ABILITIES HAVE BEEN DROPPING STEADILY EVER SINCE WE GOT HERE. WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL, I'D BEEN MEANING TO BRING IT UP SOME-TIME...
YOU DON'T THINK I'M JUST... JUST *DEAD WEIGHT,* DO YOU?
....
KYU
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO BACK TO YOUR OLD UNIT?

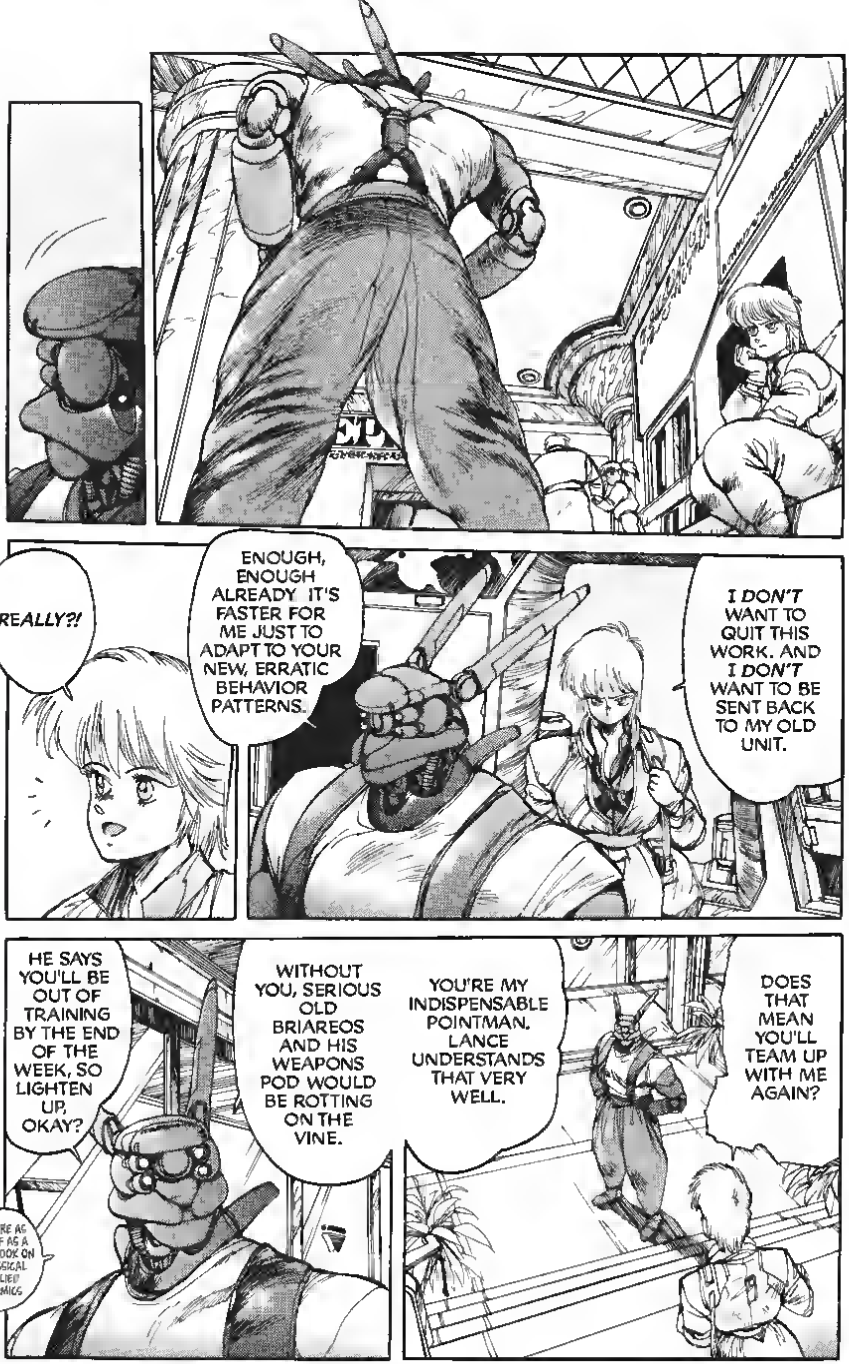
..BUT SOMETIMES I DO THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER ALL AROUND.
NOTHING OF THE SORT...
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST SIT AT HOME LIKE A LUMP AND WORRY ABOUT YOU?!
PSHT
Sign. Electropotential Ionization
LOOK... YOU'RE TAKING THIS ALL WRONG.
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH, THANK YOU!
WHERE IS THE OLD FIGHTING MACHINE SLEEPING...?
I'M NOT GOING TO ORDER YOU TO TRUST THEM. BUT REMEMBER FIRST YOU HAVE TO BE TRUSTWORTHY.
GISHI


CYBERNETIC ORGANISMS
CYBORG CENTER
ИНЖЕНЕР
SHE'S AT APHELION.
WHERE'S YOUR SATELLITE?
YO!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T MR. DEUTERIUM...
THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE ABOUT, BRI-AREOS.
YOU PLANNED FROM THE START TO PASS THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR'S FILES TO POSEIDON, DIDN'T YOU?
I'M GETTING MY LAST ADJUSTMENTS DONE TODAY... SO YOU'RE A LUCKY GUY.
THOUGHT IF I HUNG OUT AT THE CYBORG CENTER I'D RUN INTO YOU.


*FX VNNNN
DON'T KNOW.
AND HOW'S YOUR LITTLE *DOUBLE AGENT* DOING?
SO WE'RE NOT WORKING FOR THE BLACK HATS, HMM? *NOW* DO YOU BELIEVE US?
THIS TIME, YEAH.
THE RESULTS CAME BACK FROM THAT FILM YOU SWAPPED FOR THE TRANSMITTER. IT WAS THE REAL THING.
AFTER ALL, I'VE GOT EIGHT EYES AND A WHOLE FIVE AND A HALF POUNDS OF BRAIN.
LOOK CLOSE, LISTEN CLOSE, THINK HARD.
SHIT
SO YOU SAW THROUGH THE *WHOLE THING*? YOU NEVER CHANGE, PARTNER...
CHANGE IS JUST PART OF THE JOB.
HEY, HEY! CUT THAT OUT-- GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
I'M SORRY, BRIAREOS...
MYSELF, I'VE CHANGED A LOT.

HANSON
GONNA HAVE TO HIRE YA, PAL.
WHAT'S HE DOING?
HAH! FORGET IT.
HANSON
WHAT'S THAT...? OH, GREAT! THANKS!
IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR A 'BORG LIKE THE STUFFED ONE YOU GOT THERE, HE JUST WENT INTO THE GREEN ROOM.

WITH JUST ONE SOUNDING?
OKAY, THAT DOES IT.
YOU CAN REALLY GET THAT MUCH DETAIL OFF THE ULTRA-SOUND?
BACK IN THE OLD DAYS, THEY HAD TO CHECK ALL MY INTERNAL STRESS GAUGES.
MY, MY, MY! A LOT OF METAL STRESS IN THERE .. LOOKS LIKE SOME MICRO-FRACTURES.
WE JUST CALCULATE AN AVERAGE OFF TWO SIMULTANEOUS SHOTS-- ONE FROM YOUR FRONT, ONE FROM YOUR SIDE.
A grid is shot off the key body parts and compared against the original master. Stress shows as a moiré pattern
HAVING ALL THOSE OFFICIAL GADGETS INSIDE GIVES ME CRAMPS... STILL, GUESS I CAN'T JUST HAVE YOU YANK THEM.
ALAS...
WE'LL CALL YOU WHEN THE FINAL RESULTS COME IN. I'LL JUST HAVE THE COST DEDUCTED FROM YOUR ACCOUNT.


REALLY?!
ENOUGH, ENOUGH ALREADY. IT'S FASTER FOR ME JUST TO ADAPT TO YOUR NEW, ERRATIC BEHAVIOR PATTERNS.
I DON'T WANT TO QUIT THIS WORK. AND I DON'T WANT TO BE SENT BACK TO MY OLD UNIT.
HE SAYS YOU'LL BE OUT OF TRAINING BY THE END OF THE WEEK, SO LIGHTEN UP, OKAY?
WITHOUT YOU, SERIOUS OLD BRIAREOS AND HIS WEAPONS POD WOULD BE ROTTING ON THE VINE.
YOU'RE MY INDISPENSABLE POINTMAN. LANCE UNDERSTANDS THAT VERY WELL.
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL TEAM UP WITH ME AGAIN?
YOU'RE AS STIFF AS A TEXTBOOK ON CLASSICAL APPLIED DYNAMICS

FX VRMMM
IF YOU DON'T LEARN SOME FLEXIBILITY-- LEARN TO TEAM UP WITH ANYONE YOU HAVE TO-- SOMEDAY YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD MEAT.
ドォン!!
JEEZ!
RIGHT?
ヒュイイイ
YOU!! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING SOONER, YOU RAT!!
FX VREEE
FX WHMP
WELL, THANK GOD FOR THAT!!
WE'RE A BALANCED SCALE, THAT'S WHAT WE ARE.
HEH HEH!
H2OCLUB
WELL, I'M JUST SO SORRY!!
HEY, HEY, YA TOOK US TO THE WRONG HOUSE...
Y'TWERP!
WA— WANNA DRINK?!
YOOHOO! WE'RE =HIC=HOME! OH, WAOW! HI— =HIC. HITOMI'S HERE!
AND SO, LATER THAT NIGHT...

NO, NO. DON'T WORRY. IT'S JUST THAT THEY BOUGHT SOME FANCY STOCKINGS AT A BARGAIN SALE AND WHEN HITOMI TRIED HERS ON, THE PATTERN ON THE THIGH WAS STRETCHED OUT OF SHAPE...
YOU KNOW, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PUSH HER AROUND ANYMORE. YOU PLANNING TO TAKE UP MARATHON DRIVING?
VER
NCE
VALUE

GUTEN TAG!
Добрый день!
PANNA IS WONDERFUL
Здрастуйте
ПЕРЕВОДЧИК ДИПЛОМАТ
YOU REMOTE-CONTROL THEM OFF MICRO-ARMS IN A CONTROL CAVITY ABOVE THE WAIST. THEY'VE GOT TO CARRY SO MUCH FIREPOWER THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE THE OPERATOR'S ARMS TAKING UP SPACE WITH FULL-SIZE EXTERNAL SUB-ARMS.
IT'S A MODEL OF A GREYHOUND. THE DESIGN COMES STRAIGHT OFF THE BATTLEFIELD. ISRAELI LM'S USE A THREE-POINT SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR THE DRIVE CHAIN SUSPENSION... IT'S AWESOME
??
WHAT IN THE WORLD ?
HMM?
A HAT IN A LAND MATE?

Greyhound: English-bred mid-sized dogs with excellent running speed and eyesight. Used in hunting, racing, etc.

*SWAY
YECCH!
?
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE PARTS COME FROM POSEI-DON...
MNCH MNCH
FUNNY THING IS, THEY'RE MOSTLY BRITISH TECHNOLOGY STRANGE WORLD, HUH?
"RELIGION IS THE OPIATE OF THE MASSES, OR SOME THING.
I HEAR THE ISRAELIS ARE USING THEM TO RECAPTURE JERUSALEM FROM THE MUSLIMS..
*FX: EEEUUUWWW
OH, COME ON-- IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S SOME SORT OF POISONOUS TOAD..!
WOULD YOU *PLEASE* TALK TO HER!
ぞぞぞぞ
N-NO *THANK YOU!* YUCK! TAKE IT AWAAAY!
NN!
ぞりん
FX: PO NK
JUST WHAT IS THAT LITTLE *LM* FOR, ANYWAY? ANYTHING OTHER THAN PLAYING AROUND WITH?
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, GETTING THE UPHOLSTERY ALL SWEATY! HAVE SOME PITY FOR THE POOR, SUFFERING BEAST!
PSSH
DOOSH
THE LITTLE CONVENIENCES OF CIVILIZA-TION WERE *MEANT* FOR MOMENTS LIKE THIS!
PSSH

*FX TOSS
UH, OH...
HERE GOES!
*KSSSHHH
HURGK!!
*FX KSSHHKK
EEYA AAH!
SQUISH
AAAARRGA..!!
I'M GLAD I WASN'T BORN IN A COUNTRY WHERE HUMOR HAD TO COME IN FROM THE COLD...
OR LIKE AFGHANI-STAN, MAYBE?
ALWAYS THE COMBAT PATTERN IS THE SAME-- LIKE VIET NAM!
AH, THE FINAL DEFEAT OF IMPERIAL-ISM!
No lo se!
おはははは
*HAHAHAHA

士郎正宗 THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS

APPLESEED™

Stalking the ruins of New York City is Artemis, a renegade, flesh-eating bioroid (enhanced artificial human) carrying data critical to the future of Olympus, and the elite ESWAT is sent in to tranq her and bring her back home. But when Artemis recovers during transit, the powerful combat bioroid escapes into the city. ESWAT agents Deunan and Briareos are dispatched to bring in the feral Artemis, but will they emerge as heroes . . . or lunch?

From *Ghost in the Shell* creator Shirow Masamune comes the manga masterpiece *Appleseed*, the epic cyberpunk vision that deftly balances hardcore techno-science, wry political commentary, and explosive action, and inspired the wildly popular animated film.

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DARK HORSE MANGA

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LOVAG